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Alumni president criticizes NMC's hiring decisions. PAGE 3

Ex-convict beats up male friend at Tank Beach. PAGE 5

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of confidence that CUC will be able to meet Saipan's demand for power when the Aggreko contract ends in September?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 26, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Box Office

"Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" claimed a box office victory over "Terminator Salvation."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Compact formula: Just 6 percent of $30 million for CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The population of Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI represents only 6 percent of the total estimated FAS population here and in Guam, Hawaii and American Samoa. This means the CNMI will only get 6 percent or a little over $1.93 million of the total $30 million in Compact Impact funding appropriated by the U.S. Department of the Interior to the four jurisdictions every year.

However, the proposed Compact Impact funding of $1.93 million does not factor in yet the authorized deduction of up to $300,000 to carry out the cost of conducting a census.

This was explained to House Ways and Means Committee

See COMPACT on Page 4

OAG stops AG's Cup competition

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After successfully holding the annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition in the last 25 years, the Office of the Attorney General has decided to stop hosting the event so it could focus on its core mission.

Baka

Acting Attorney General Gregory Baka confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, admitting that budget was also a factor in the decision.

"The Office of the Attorney General has retired the Attorney General's Cup to focus on its core mission of providing legal advice to the governor and executive departments, rep-

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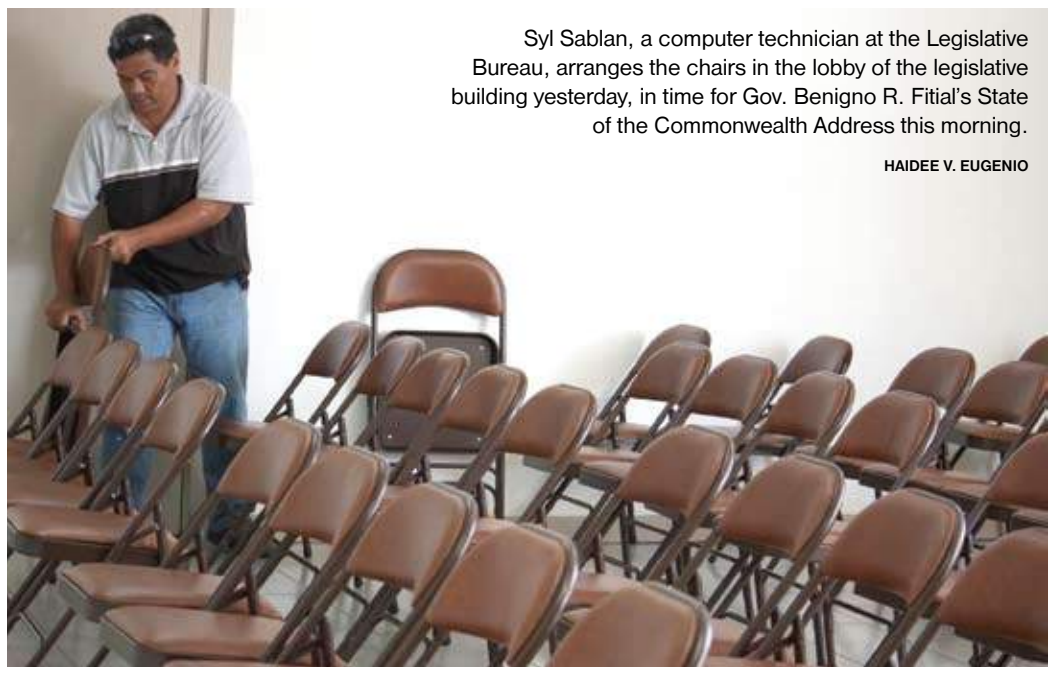

Syl Sablan, a computer technician at the Legislative Bureau, arranges the chairs in the lobby of the legislative building yesterday, in time for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address this morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Admin assures frank, candid SOCA; lawmakers want a plan for economy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers say they want Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to detail his plan on stimulating the depressed economy and expect they will be "blamed" once again, while press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday the public could expect a "frank and candid assessment" of the CNMI when the governor delivers today his fourth State of the Commonwealth Address since assuming office in 2006.

"The governor has never been Pollyannaish and will not say that our economy is still pretty darn good," Reyes told

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CRM director insists no violation in Marpi

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John B. Joyner yesterday insisted that the Department of Public Lands or its contractor Ampro did not violate CRM regulations when they started clearing portions of 62 hectares of lands in Marpi without any CRM major siting permit.

Concerned citizens who attended yesterday's meeting of the CRM Agency officials—commonly referred to as the CRM board—do not agree.

They also questioned Joyner's authority to waive an application for a major siting

See CRM on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John Joyner addresses the CRM Agency officials during a meeting yesterday, while CRM permit manager Tony Gomez looks on.

Local

New Chinese junk replica may be built for another voyage

The Chinese sailing junk replica, *Princess Taiping*, is shown here as it sails off Saipan after a brief port call.

When the Chinese sailing junk replica, *Princess Taiping*, sank off the northeastern Taiwan fishing port of Suao on April 26, it didn't spell the end of a journey for a group of adventurers.

Had it not been for the accident, the 54-foot *Princess Taiping* could have completed a cross-Pacific voyage that would have set a record as the first by a Ming Dynasty sailing junk replica without mechanical power.

Princess Taiping's crew of Taiwanese, Chinese and Americans may build another Chinese junk replica to show that Chinese seafarers in their engineless vessels may have reached America before Europeans.

Publicists say the captain is planning to build a new boat after details of the accident are settled.

The black and red Chinese junk replica was supposed to be displayed in a museum in Taiwan but it rammed into a foreign freighter on April 26 before reaching the port and just before completing a rare roundtrip journey to the United States.

Named after a Dynasty princess, the junk replica set sail from Hong Kong in June 2008 and reached the United States in 69 days. For 10 months, it made port calls in Honolulu, Hawaii; San Francisco, California; Saipan, CNMI; and Osaka, Japan.

Princess Taiping arrived on Saipan on March 22 from Honolulu, Hawaii, and left on March 30 for Okinawa, Japan.

From Japan, they sailed to Taiwan. However, just when they were about to reach their target Taiwan port, their junk collided with an unknown freighter, on April 26. It was the last leg of *Princess Taiping*'s return journey across the Pacific from the United States.

All 11 crew members were rescued after the accident which occurred 46 miles east of their final port in Taiwan. Two of the crew members had serious injuries to the head and neck, while the others received treatment in two military hospitals in Taipei City for hypothermia.

The voyage project, initiated by Taiwan hobbyist and junk captain Liu Ning-sheng in 2004, was meant to show that Chinese people might have sailed to the Americas hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus reached the New World.

Some historians believe the Chinese discovered America, as artifacts, anchors and other gear from China are said to have been found scattered on the U.S. Pacific coast.

Princess Taiping's voyage to America and back was described on the vessel's Web site as one of "cultural renaissance combining culture, exploration, sports, and creativity," demonstrating that ancient Chinese ships could cross the Pacific Ocean.

Princess Taiping is the first replica sailing junk in Chinese society. The difference between a replica ship and a rebuilt ship is that the rebuilt one only imitates the appearance of the ancient ship and its building method and craftsmanship are modern and do not use the ancient methods.

The vessel's website said the rebuilt ship is mostly used for tourism, but the replica ship possesses both appearance and spirit of the ancient ship. "Its structures and craftsmanship are all followed the means and methods from the ancient times," it said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Alumni president criticizes NMC's hiring decisions

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The president of the Northern Marianas College Alumni Association, Jesse Torres, filed yesterday a complaint against the institution's management over what he described as the "disappointing" hiring practices of the college.

In a one-page document sent to NMC HR, Torres disclosed that, despite passing eligibility requirements, he was rejected for a position he had applied for.

"I was told by [Teresa Sablan of] HR that I was a certified applicant for the Business Department chair position. I later received an e-mail stating that I was unqualified," he said in his complaint letter. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Torres had also applied for a position at the Office of Institutional Advancement, which he also failed to get.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday she has not heard of the complaint yet.

"Other than what we have heard from the media, we have not received any written complaint," Fernandez said.

Nonetheless, she said it is not the college policy to publicly comment on specific complaints. "…And I want to emphasize there is a grievance process that has been put in place by the Board of Regents for this purpose," she said.

NMC has been searching for a business department chairman since Eric Plinske left the position last year. Larry Lee, the newly elected Senate faculty president, is currently the acting chairman.

"There were three total applicants that met the requirements to begin the interview process. The position was closed and interviews were supposed to take place. The position was later re-opened by the president," Torres said.

He said it is useless to form interview committees if their recommendations are not recognized by the college president.

"The president currently can ignore the recommendations of interview committees. What is the point of having interview committees if the president can simply ignore their recommendations and not hire the most qualified for the position? It is a waste of the applicant's time and it is a waste of personnel time. The college is selling itself short by not hiring the best applicant for the job," he added.

As president of the NMC Alumni Association, he said he is disappointed with what NMC currently practices. He plans to request an investigation into the hiring practices of the college.

"Currently, HR is not hiring the most qualified applicants for certain positions. The college would be more effective if the most qualified were hired. It is my duty to look after the best interests of the college," he added.

Fernandez said there are personnel processes and procedures in place to ensure that the college conducts its employee recruitment process in an open and competitive manner and consistent with the Board of Regents policy.

"Our HR office staff members are more than willing to sit with him or anyone else to explain our HRO procedures," Fernandez added.

Early this month, the Board of Regents approved a four-year contract for Fernandez.

As of April, four department chairpersons have filed grievances relating to the same "hiring practices" at the college. All these complaints are still at the lower level and have yet to reach Fernandez's desk.

Villagomez lawyer given more time to reply to U.S. objection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan has asked the federal court to give his client, former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, more time to file his reply to the U.S. government's opposition to a motion to disqualify U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson.

Citing his busy calendar, Lujan asked the court to allow Villagomez until June 4 to file his reply.

Munson granted Lujan's request yesterday, giving Villagomez until 3:30pm on June 4 to file the reply.

Ramon Quichocho, lawyer for Villagomez's sister Joaquina V. Santos, also asked the court yesterday for an extension to file replies to the U.S. government's responses to the defendants' motions.

Villagomez and Joaquina Santos had filed a motion for a judgment of acquittal despite the guilty verdict that had already been handed down, a motion to disqualify Munson, a motion for a new trial, and motion for judgment of acquittal or new trial.

Quichocho said he needs until June 4 to complete Joaquina Santos' replies to the U.S. government's responses.

Lujan stated in the motion to disqualify the judge that during the course of the trial, Munson allowed at least three to four U.S. Marshals and three to four security personnel inside the courtroom, allegedly to protect the individual jurors and providing the appearance that the defendants and their families and friends were threats to the jurors' safety.

Lujan said no family or family supporters of the defendants were allowed to sit behind the government section during the course of the trial.

Lujan said these actions created the impression of the defendants' prejudged guilt and gave the government a strategic seating advantage for only one purpose—to be in physical proximity to influence members of the jury.

The lawyer also pointed to Munson's alleged comments demeaning the efforts of the defense counsel and reflecting his opinion regarding Villagomez.

He also alleged that the judge helped the U.S. government in several instances to question witnesses and admit evidence.

In the U.S. government's opposition, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley described as "fanciful speculation" Villagomez's argument that Munson was engaged in an organized effort to place the prosecution's witnesses close to the jurors, with the aim of persuading the jurors to convict.

O'Malley said the Sixth Amendment imposes a duty on a trial judge to take reasonable measures to ensure that defendants get a fair trial, free of prejudice and disruption.

O'Malley said Villagomez's claims "fails on its face."

He said the defendant gives no specific examples of unfair treatment, relying instead on "opinion" that the judge's demeanor was directed to the jury and was intended to imply guilt of the defendants.

Last April 24, the jurors convicted Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Santos, and his brother-in-law James Santos of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

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Thursday Night
KIKBAK
8:45 PM

OAG

From Page 1

resenting the Commonwealth in all legal matters, and prosecuting violations of Commonwealth law, as set forth in Article III, Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail.

He said when the AG's Cup was started in the mid-'80s, there were few of the many activities, options, and extracurricular activities open to CNMI students that are available today.

For instance, this year the Humanities Council sponsored the 7th annual Covenant Day Debate that covered the same sort of subject addressed in the AG's Cup speeches, Baka said.

In competitions with off-island final rounds, Baka said the Public School System promotes participation in the National Forensic League and the Middle School Forensic League while the CNMI Bar Association sponsors the Mock Trial.

He said there are also math and spelling contests, and the Geography Bee, as well as the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There are also other opportunities available in such extracurricular activities as Junior Achievement, the 22nd annual "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition, CNMI Youth Congress, JROTC, sports, state mock congressional hearing competition, not to mention various internships, externships and scholarships, according to Baka.

Moreover, the acting AG said the format of the AG's Cup has little to do with arguments presented by actual attorneys.

"The techniques used in the speeches would subject many of the student presenters to disciplinary sanctions if attempted in a real courtroom," he added.

Baka admitted that currently, the OAG does not have funding even for the computers of its lawyers.

"They [OAG lawyers] use their own, resulting in a loss of institutional memory and efficiency when lawyers depart. Turnover is high, due to non-competitive salaries and budget limitations," he said.

"It is the best use of limited OAG human and financial resources to bring the Commonwealth's largest law firm fully into the digital age, and to let our students avail themselves of the so many wonderful new opportunities that PSS and others have established for them in the past 25 years," he said.

"We should all be thankful that so many student activities abound, and that the OAG is once again focusing on its core mission," Baka added.

Last year, Mount Carmel School was adjudged champion of the speech contest. In the competition's 25-year history, MCS held the title for seven years.

In the 2008 AG's Cup contest, 11 contestants tackled the theme "Should the NMI and Guam unite as one Marianas to form the 51st state of the union?"

Among the judges were officials from both Guam and CNMI governments.

ADMIN

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune.

"Pollyannaish" refers to a person characterized by irrepressible optimism and a tendency to find good in everything.

Rep. Tina Sablan, Ind-Saipan, said she expects to receive a gloomy forecast of the future and reasons why a more positive vision of the CNMI is not possible.

"I expect the Legislature and the federal government to be blamed for the current challenges we face. I expect the governor will be generally right in his assessment of the Legislature and how we are part of the problem. But I don't expect an honest assessment of the shortcomings of this administration or a compelling and visionary long-term plan of action," she said.

Rep. Joe Reyes, for his part, said among other things, he expects Fitial to state his plan in stimulating the economy and in addressing issues with the Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Rep. Ramon "Ray" A. Tebuteb said during the last SOCA, "we were scolded," and today, lawmakers "will be asked to support what we were scolded for."

In his SOCA last year, Fitial blamed the Legislature for the power crisis.

The previous year, in 2007, Fitial said the government is "still broke" and "better times" will take some time. In 2006, he said the government is "broke."

The press secretary said the public should not expect an "overly rosy assessment of our situation."

"The governor is optimistic but realistic, keenly aware of the enormous challenges facing the Commonwealth, but yet also filled with hope and confidence about the future of our Commonwealth," he said.

Reserved seats, tight security

The venue for this year's SOCA is the House of Representatives chamber at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

At 10am today, the House and Senate will hold its Fifth Joint Legislative Session to receive the governor's address.

In previous years, the SOCA was held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Glenna S.P.-Reyes, director of the Legislative Bureau, said despite a smaller venue, they expect a smooth SOCA this year.

"We can manage. If the State of the Judiciary for the last two years and the legislative inaugurations could be held here, then I'm sure we can manage with the SOCA," Reyes said yesterday, as she showed reporters the House chamber yesterday afternoon.

She said heightened security measures will be in place, and the Department of Public Safety will be sending police officers to the venue to help ensure peace and order.

The 20 members of the House and the nine members of the Senate all have assigned seats in the House chamber. There are 36 other seats reserved for dignitaries, as well as members of the media.

In the House lobby, there are 60 seats, plus about 27 more in the hallway. The building is expected to be filled to capacity for the SOCA.

As has been the practice since 2006, no food will be served at the end of the SOCA, Reyes said.

The Constitution requires the governor to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the CNMI and new measures that are necessary or desirable for the islands.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes, in a memorandum, advised members of the Legislature of the heightened security measures and reminded lawmakers that the attire for the session is coat and tie for men, and business wear for women.

CRM

From Page 1

permit through a May 15, 2009, letter to DPL, especially after CRM itself required DPL on Feb. 1, 2008, to file an application for a major siting permit.

"He [Joyner] could not tell me what part of the regulations or the statute gave him the explicit authority to waive the requirement for an application for a project that he himself describes as being one of 'tremendous proportions' and significance, and one that he acknowledges meets the definition of a major siting," Rep. Tina Sablan, who attended the CRM board meeting as a concerned citizen, told *Saipan Tribune.*

The clearing of 62 hectares of public lands in Marpi of unexploded World War II ordnance started in April 2009 with only a Division of Environmental Quality earthmoving and erosion control permit.

Members of the public who attended yesterday's meeting of the CRM board were Sablan, Ruth Tighe, Marlyn Swift, Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz and his wife and daughter.

DEQ director Frank Rabauliman, during the meeting, said the issue of whether or not a major siting permit is required for the ongoing land clearing "is still on the table."

CRM board members, when asked by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said they did not know about Joyner's decision on May 15 not to require a permit for DPL, prior to him sending DPL a letter stating so.

But Joyner said he has delegated authority to decide when a project needs a major siting permit or not, among other things.

Among the CRM board members present yesterday were Joyner, Rabauliman, Public Works Secretary Diego Songsong, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Mac Chargualaf, Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Henry S. Hofschneider, Historic Preservation Office's Roy Sablan, and Division of Fish and Wildlife's Sylvan Igisomar.

Sablan later said she and Joyner went over the CRM regulations, specifically on the definition of a "major siting." She said Joyner agreed that the project met the definition.

"But he maintained that no major siting determination had been made and there was no violation because no permit application was required and CRM was satisfied that proper erosion control measures were in place. But the CRM major siting permit is about so much more than just erosion control," Sablan said.

'Upsetting'

Sablan said what was also upsetting, among many things, was when she asked whether CRM would schedule a public hearing to solicit public input on 1) whether or not the remaining forest in the project site should be removed, and 2) what the re-vegetation plan should be for the area that has been cleared.

Joyner, during the meeting, said a public hearing would be required if a major siting determination is made, if CRM agency officials request a public hearing, or if a petition signed by at least five persons requesting a public hearing is submitted. The petition would have to be submitted within 14 days of the permit application being published

Sablan said the CRM director told her that he could not set a public hearing under CRM regulations because no permit application was required, and therefore no application could be published.

"But he had made the decision *not* to require a permit application…and he also said that no major siting determination had been made, because no permit application had been submitted and now, none was required. We went around and around in circles like this right up until around 5pm," said Sablan.

She added that from her perspective, all anyone has ever asked is that CRM honor its mandate, which is to protect the environment, to ensure the public is aware and informed about projects that could have a significant impact on the environment, and to promote prudent land use management policies.

"CRM did not uphold that mandate when it allowed the project to begin without the required permit, without even submitting an application, when it did not issue so much as a notice of violation, and when it then waived the application requirement altogether and then told the public on the record that they could not even, under the regulations, request a public hearing because CRM had suddenly decided to waive the requirement for an application," she said.

The House Committee on Natural Resources, in a May 18 hearing on the Marpi clearing project, said CRM and DEQ may have violated their own regulations by allowing the clearing without a major siting permit.

Despite concerns by the House committee and some members of the community, the Marpi land clearing continues.

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which provided $550,000 in Brownfields grants to DPL for the unexploded ordnance cleanup in Marpi, allowed DPL and its contractor Ampro to continue land clearing.

EPA cited Joyner's May 15, 2009 letter stating that CRM does not require DPL to obtain a permit for the project, as reason for allowing DPL to continue with the project.

COMPACT

From Page 1

chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul by Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan in response to their question about Interior's calculation of Compact Impact funding for the CNMI.

Under President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal of $3.4 trillion to the U.S. Congress, the CNMI will be getting only $1.93 million in Compact Impact funding, an over 62 percent drop from the previous funding of $5.172 million.

Sablan, in a letter to Yumul, said losing money may be difficult but the change comes at a time when tens of millions of dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are on their way to help smooth the transition and aid in creating innovative cost-cutting measures that may result in greater savings in the future.

He also said a large amount of administrative monies—indirect costs that conceivably could be as much $15 million—connected with the ARRA funds will soon be available.

"And a drop in the number of FAS citizens does mean less cost to the NMI government as well, as fewer services have to be provided," Sablan told Yumul.

Yumul, in a memorandum to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, provided Sablan's explanation regarding the calculation of the CNMI's Compact Impact funding for FY 2010.

"As reported in the DOI's FY 2010 budget justification, they have not deducted $300,000 for the costs to enumerate and track [FAS] migrants from the $30 million," Yumul told Palacios.

The House leadership tasked Yumul to seek explanation on the CNMI's proposed Compact Impact funding for FY 2010 the same day the figures were reported in the *Saipan Tribune*.

Yumul, in an interview, said he is concerned that the margin of error in the estimate of FAS migrants is 90 percent.

"That's a huge margin of error," he said.

Sablan, in his letter to Yumul, said the U.S. Census Bureau used estimates from a number of sources in putting together its 2009 numbers.

Based on census estimates, American Samoa hosts 15 FAS citizens; the CNMI, 2,100; Guam, 18,305; and Hawaii, 12,215.

For the CNMI, the bureau used data from a 2008 survey of FAS immigrants, and 2000 census data to estimate population on Tinian and Rota, said Sablan.

For American Samoa, the bureau used data from the 2000 national decennial census.

The bureau used the 2008 FAS survey for Guam. For Hawaii, the number came from a three-year average data collected from the American Community Survey.

"Because the CNMI population of FAS citizens is now 6 percent of the total number of FAS citizens in eligible jurisdictions, the CNMI receives 6 percent of the $30 million in available funds. Officials at the Department of the Interior have suggested that these changes reflect a growing economy in Guam, especially in sectors serving the military community, and the departure of the garment factories and slower tourism, industries where FAS citizens have traditionally worked, in the CNMI," Sablan told Yumul.

Guam, which saw an 86 percent growth in FAS citizen population, from only about 10,000 in 2003 to 18,305 in 2008, will be receiving an additional $2.585 million in Compact Impact funding.

In FY 2010, Guam's Compact Impact funding is proposed at $16.827 million, from only $14.242 million in FY 2009.

Under a Compact between the United States and FAS, citizens of FAS are free to travel, work and study in the U.S. and its territories without U.S. visas.

The FAS includes Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae).

Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa and the CNMI share $30 million in Compact Impact funding that the Interior releases every year that go mainly to health, social service, public safety and education agencies for accommodating or providing services to FAS citizens.

The annual appropriation is reviewed every five years for possible realignment of allocations among recipient jurisdictions.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said the administration will work with the Legislature to reflect the Compact Impact funding changes in his proposed FY 2010 budget.

Ex-convict beats up male friend at Tank Beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man who is still on probation for rape was arrested for taking an Office of Personnel Management employee to Tank Beach in Kagman where he allegedly beat up the victim, forced him to strip naked, and threatened to kill him.

Dickson Cosmes, 24, was arrested Monday afternoon and taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $6,000 cash bail for Cosmes' temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for June 3 at 9am.

The victim, Antonio Mendiola Camacho, an OPM staff who also works part-time as a cashier at a Garapan store, was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center for a swollen left eye and cut to the eyelid. He complained of body pain and had bruises in the back, buttocks, and rib cage.

Detective Simon T. Manacop, who interviewed the victim at CHC Saturday, stated in a report that Camacho had picked up his friend, Cosmes, at the latter's residence in San Jose Friday night to join some friends at the 13 Fishermen's Park in Garapan for some drinks. At 10pm, Camacho told Cosmes they had to leave because he still had to work in the morning.

While driving, an argument erupted between Cosmes and Camacho. When they arrived at the San Jose Motel where Cosmes is staying, the defendant took the car keys from Camacho and drove to Tank Beach in Kagman where he then dragged Camacho to the shoreline.

Cosmes allegedly forced Camacho to strip and punched and kicked him in the face and body. Cosmes then grabbed a piece of wood and hit Camacho with it repeatedly. He also told the victim to go into the water and kill himself or else he would kill him. Camacho begged Cosmes to stop because he needed medical attention.

A few minutes later, the defendant told Camacho to go back inside the car and put on his wet clothes.

Camacho begged to be taken to CHC, but the defendant instead drove the car for two to three hours in Kagman, Tanapag, San Roque, and then San Jose. While in the car, the defendant punched the victim in the stomach and face.

Cosmes later gave Camacho his cell phone, which the victim used to call his mother, telling her to meet him at CHC.

After he dropped off Cosmes at a pavilion across Morgen Building in San Jose, Camacho proceeded to CHC for medical treatment.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said CHC called DPS on Saturday at 3:50am to report the incident involving Camacho.

According to court records, in June 2001, Cosmes, who was then 16 years old, beat up and raped a Chinese woman who was showering inside her apartment. The defendant also took the victim's $20 cash.

In December 2001, Cosmes pleaded guilty to rape. Then Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan sentenced Cosmes to five years in prison and placed him on 10 years of probation.

In 2001, the then juvenile was also charged with robbery, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Labor submits claims for 213 ex-garment workers

The Department of Labor submitted yesterday to former judge Timothy Bellas, the trustee of the Garment Workers Trust Fund, individual claims on behalf of 213 former garment workers totaling about $700,000.

Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat said the list of claims was assembled from the information provided by those who registered with the Labor Department at Garapan Park last summer and includes those who registered with the federal ombudsman in the summer of 2007. Kaipat's list includes workers who were employed by garment industry subcontractors.

These subcontractors were "virtually indistinguishable from the main garment factories that they served," Kaipat said.

Last Friday, Bellas announced that the Garment Workers Trust Fund still has $600,000 available to assist former garment workers who are still on Saipan and are facing hardships. He said the $600,000 is leftover money from the checks distributed to the workers as settlement in the class action against garment factories. "Under the terms of the settlement agreement, it is supposed to go to help workers if we can. If we can't, then it goes to charity," he said.

In the past two years, Kaipat said, the Labor Department has adjudicated wage claims made by former garment workers whose cases were filed long before the current administration. The adjudication of these claims has made it possible for garment workers to be compensated from the trust fund. Nearly all of the cases on the list submitted by Kaipat were filed in the years 1997 through 2004.

"We expect that our list is reasonably complete," Kaipat said. The former ombudsman, Jim Benedetto, compiled a list after extensive advertising for unpaid wage claims in local papers in 2007. He turned that list over to the department. Also, the department advertised and held a mass registration in 2008 to assemble claims from the 2007 and prior-year cases that had been completed in Labor's cleanup of old cases.

The trust fund is accepting applications until Aug. 15, 2009 from former garment workers who want to avail of the funding.

Applicants need to send their applications either in Chinese or English to GWTF, P.O. Box 505943, Saipan, MP, 96950. ***(PR)***

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Over 60 govt employees complete grant writing course

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Some of the 60 employees of various government agencies who completed a two-day course in grant writing course join resource speaker Judith Clark, sixth from right, executive director of Hawaii Youth Service Network, in a photo shoot during graduation ceremonies at the Civic Center last May 22.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 60 employees from various government offices in the CNMI recently completed a two-day course in writing proposals for funding small-scale and long-term projects and programs.

Hawaii Youth Services Network executive director Judith F. Clark and office manager Regina Torres conducted the grant writing training on May 21-22 at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center.

Clark said it was the first time that such training was done on Saipan. It was intended to teach government employees how to create the best proposal when applying for grants.

Clark explained that grant writing is not just about the ability to seek grant funding from specific foundations, corporations or federal agency, but also the right kind of opportunity that fits the organization or agency.

The most important consideration, she said, is to maximize the chance of getting funded by finding opportunities that meet the needs of the agency one is representing.

"You must learn a system for rating funding opportunities," she said.

All divisions and departments of the CNMI government were represented at the training.

Major highlights included tips on using websites like grants.gov, where all federal grant opportunities may be found; knowing how to read and understand a federal request for proposal; and identifying sources of data to make a compelling case for the need of one's program.

Clark stressed the importance of how to write goals and objectives that are realistic, achievable and measurable.

Other pointers are how to prove to funding institutions or agencies that one's organization has the necessary experience, governance and financial control systems to manage the project and the funds in a responsible manner; and how to effectively describe the qualifications and responsibilities of the project staff.

During the training, the participants actually prepared project proposals that are now being readied for submission to grant funding institutions.

Kalabera Cave presentation tonight at AMP

The Historical Preservation Office will be conducting a presentation on the cultural resources of Kalabera Cave starting at 6pm tonight, May 27, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center auditorium.

HPO director Pedro "Roy" Sablan Jr. is inviting the public to this opportunity.

Invited speakers are two individuals who have extensive knowledge of the Kalabera Cave—Genevieve Cabrera and Marilyn Swift.

Cabrera is a former staff historian with HPO while Swift is with the Saipan-based Swift and Harper Archeological Resources Consulting that had done scientific analysis in the area.

This presentation is part of the ongoing HPO Week (May 23-31) in the CNMI with the theme "This Place Matters."

HPO has planned several activities for the week that include guided tours of archeological and historic sites and a public presentation on the cultural resources of Kalabera Cave.

For additional information, contact HPO at 664-2120. ***(PR)***

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CLICK IT
OR
TICKET

May 18-31, 2009

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY

Man in armed robbery at Rota poker pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who is facing charges in federal court of robbing a poker establishment on Rota entered a guilty plea yesterday.

Wilbur Vic Masga Inos signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Inos' guilty plea and set the sentencing for Sept. 1, 2009.

Inos' lawyer, Robert T. Torres, said his client is taking responsibility for his actions.

"Being a young man, he was able to decide to accept responsibility and, by serving his sentence, will make amend to the community for his conduct and we'll look forward to the day when he is able to return to become a productive member of society," Torres said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto represented the case on behalf of the U.S. government.

Police arrested Inos about an hour after the robbery at Rota Poker was reported to the Rota Department of Public Safety on Aug. 4, 2008.

Detective George A. Barcinas stated in his report that when interrogated, Inos surrendered the money he took and explained that he only did it because his son is in critical condition in Guam.

Inos was subsequently indicted in federal court with one count of Hobbs Act robbery and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Police said a masked man entered the poker establishment and pointed a rifle at the cashier and demanded money.

Police's investigation led to the recovery of a black AR-15 rifle, its magazine, and three rounds of bullets, from a roof of the barracks owned by Rota Mayor Joseph Inos, the defendant's father.

The younger Inos is facing separate robbery charges in the Superior Court over the same incident.

PSS: Guidelines for stabilization funds for insular areas not final yet

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's "true" share in President Obama's $750 billion stimulus money has yet to be finalized pending formal notification from either the U.S. Department of Education or the Office of Insular Affairs.

"It's not been decided yet… because both OIA and USDOE are still in consultation," according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan yesterday.

Based on the law's formula, an estimated $268 million would go to insular areas, with appropriations based on the student populations of Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI.

Sablan said that PSS is also aware of some issues about the stimulus funding, including the governors' proposal to transfer the expenditure authority to OIA from USDOE and the proposed "equal" sharing of all insular areas. The law designates the USDOE as the fund's expenditure authority, in consultation with OIA.

"All these have yet to be completed and we have yet to receive formal notification as to the update and changes in the law," she said.

The PSS official is hoping the stimulus money would be issued in time for the schools' preparation for the new school year in September.

The stabilization fund is expected to address the decades-old problems in public schools such as overcrowding due to lack of facility, high student-to-teacher ratio as a result of teacher shortage, and safety concerns in many public campuses due to meager appropriation from the local government.

At present, PSS is allocated $34.6 million spread out across 20 public schools and nearly 11,000 students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The appropriation includes the $2 million Compact Impact money from the federal government.

When asked to comment about insular areas getting equal shares of the $268 million money, the commissioner said she's also mindful of the needs of other students in neighboring islands and regions.

"Yes, the more the better…but we must also very mindful of the needs of other students in other insular areas," she said.

She said PSS hopes for a "positive" update on the stimulus issue next month.

"In June, surely we will have better idea [about the stimulus money for PSS]," she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1999 reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1999 will be having a reunion meeting on Friday, May 29, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The meeting will discuss a planned fundraising hot lunch. For more information, contact class president Francis Mendiola at 287-6700 or e-mail iskovalski@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Military activity on Farallon de Mendenilla

The U.S. military will be conducting laser ranging and designating on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on May 27 – 28, 2009, from 11am to 5pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away or take precautionary measures from and around this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System

RECOVERY ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, hereby giving notice that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the "Supervisory Council" of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold a Recovery Act Award Meeting on Friday, May 29, 2009, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Lilac Conference Room, World Resort, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES (April 6, 2009)

V. NEW BUSINESS
a. Chairman's Remarks/Overview, Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
b. Executive Director's Program Update, Jerome Ierome
c. Review and Approval of Sub-grant Applications:

1. Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program: State Solicitation

2. Recovery Act: OVC FY09 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested individuals are welcome to attend. Should you need more information, please call the CJPA at 664-4550/7.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairperson

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director
CJPA

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by Grant Nos.2007-DJ-BX-0076 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/16 Sat	5/14 Thu	5/14 Thu	5/12 Tue	5/9 Sat	5/22 Fri	5/18 Mon	5/17 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/10 Sun	5/18 Mon	5/22 Fri	5/24 Sun	5/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	022E	5/23 Sat	5/21 Thu	5/21 Thu	5/19 Tue	5/16 Sat	5/29 Fri	5/25 Mon	5/24 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/17 Sun	5/25 Mon	5/29 Fri	5/31 Sun	6/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	021E	5/30 Sat	5/28 Thu	5/28 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/23 Sat	6/5 Fri	6/1 Mon	5/31 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	6/1 Mon	6/5 Fri	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/6 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/4 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/30 Sat	6/12 Fri	6/8 Mon	6/7 Sun	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	6/8 Mon	6/12 Fri	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/13 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/11 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/6 Sat	6/19 Fri	6/15 Mon	6/14 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/15 Mon	6/19 Fri	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	022E	6/20 Sat	6/18 Thu	6/18 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/13 Sat	6/26 Fri	6/22 Mon	6/21 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/22 Mon	6/26 Fri	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	033E	5/30 Sat	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	SKIP	6/4 Thu	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/12 Fri	6/13 Sat	6/18 Thu	7/7 Tue	6/21 Sun	6/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	022E	6/6 Sat	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue	6/11 Thu	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue	6/19 Fri	6/20 Sat	6/25 Thu	7/14 Tue	6/28 Sun	6/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	021E	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	SKIP	6/18 Thu	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/26 Fri	6/27 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/21 Tue	7/5 Sun	7/1 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/25 Thu	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue	7/3 Fri	7/4 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/12 Sun	7/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	SKIP	7/2 Thu	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat	7/16 Thu	8/4 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/15 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	022E	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/9 Thu	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue	7/17 Fri	7/18 Sat	7/23 Thu	8/11 Tue	7/26 Sun	7/22 Wed

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'It will take 2 years to correct errors'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the past four years, the family of Miguel P. Tenorio has been urging the American Memorial Park staff to correct a glaring error in one of its displays—a picture showing the World War II hero but with the wrong name.

"It was in the morning of 8 July that I took two prisoners on top of the Banzai Cliffs. I talked with them at length trying to convince them that to continue fighting would amount to sure death for them," states an entry in one of the catalogues at the AMP's Visitor Center and WWII Exhibit Hall.

At the bottom of the article is the photograph of two U.S. Marines talking to an unidentified child with a barbed wire in front.

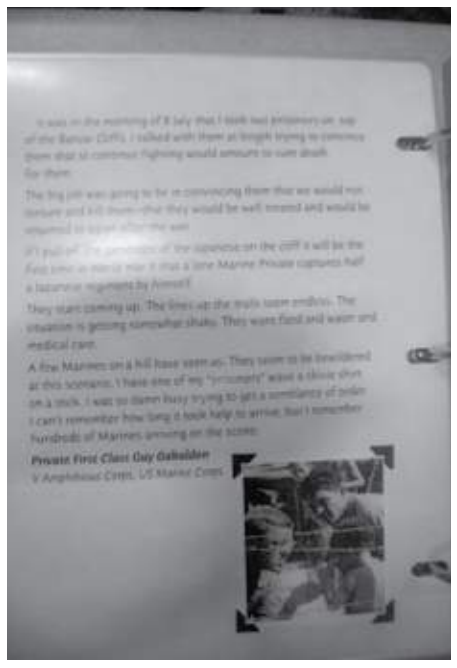
The article was an account by Tenorio of a historic moment during the Battle of Saipan.

Unfortunately, the credit was given to the wrong person—Private First Class Guy Gabaldon, V Amphibious Corps, US Marine Corps.

His son, Larry Tenorio, told *Saipan Tribune* he first informed AMP about the error in 2005.

"I want them to change that," he said.

He went to check again in 2007 and was promised that all would be taken into



consideration but that it takes about seven months to fix the matter.

This week, he would try to make a third request.

Park ranger Nancy A. Kelcher said yesterday it will take about two years to fix the problem because many items such as pictures are not identified and would need a special project to put in changes.

"It was a typographical error, just like some of the many photographs here," Kelcher said.

The process would take about two years since this would need a comprehensive project to fix all the errors and identify some of the people in the photos.

Since AMP is federally funded, she said they need to propose a budget for this to the National Park Service, which is the right agency to approve such a project.

"I'm persevering to fix the problem. I'm just gathering more information. These photos are permanently placed here but the people in it are not identified. We have to do something about it,' she said.

She said those who may have known some of the people in the photographs could help the park identify them.

"Someone may have know them," she said.

Tenorio recalled that his father was a local scout during the war. The Japanese captured him and later transferred him to Majuro, then to Honolulu. He was suspected as a spy.

Years later during the 1980s, the elder Tenorio and his wife accompanied their daughter Winnie for a medical checkup in Hawaii.

The Veterans Administration office there immediately held a big party for him upon recognizing his presence there, according to the younger Tenorio.

His father died in 1986.

DPW amends building safety regs to qualify for $18.6M stimulus funding

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has filed a notice of emergency regulations that seek to amend the regulations of the DPW's Building Safety Division in order for the CNMI to avail of over $18.6 million of federal stimulus grants.

The notice, filed with the Commonwealth Register on April 29, 2009, was submitted by Building Safety official Martin Sablan and acting Attorney General Gregory Baka and concurred by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The emergency regulations become effective immediately upon filing with the Commonwealth Register and delivery to Fitial.

DPW stated in the notice that public interest requires adoption of the regulations on an emergency basis in order for the CNMI to qualify for $18.6 million in federally energy-related economic stimulus grants under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009.

Under the emergency regulations, DPW will take steps to enhance energy efficiency and the wise use of energy by making certain regulatory changes.

The emergency regulations provide for International Building Code and its energy code provisions, the Tropical Energy Code and its energy code provisions, update the schedule of fees, update seismic and typhoon standards, clarify permit, certificate and enforcement provisions, and correct typographical errors.

The other reasons for emergency adoption are:

■ The CNMI requires immediate implementation of measures that will reduce future consumption of oil, turning to other measures, including energy efficiency, to help meet the Commonwealth's energy needs.

■ The old, present regulations, if applied in the immediate future, would impede the CNMI's qualification for the federal grants, impede the realization of needed energy efficiency measures, increase the vulnerability of CNMI structures and people, to earthquake and typhoon wind damage.

■ The earthquake and typhoon requirements must be updated to presently understood safety levels.

Northern Marianas College
Board of Regents
Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Thursday, May 28, 2009
3:30pm

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
A. Roll Call

II. **New Business**
A. FY2010 Operations Budget

III. **Old Business**
A. WASC Accreditation Update – Review
May 29 Show Cause Supplemental Report

IV. **Executive Session**
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

VI. **Adjournment**

/s/ **Charles V. Cepeda** May 27, 2009
Chairperson, Board of Regents Date

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, May 29, 2009 beginning at 6:00 PM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Board Vacancies
  - Tinian Replacement – Swearing In
  - Saipan Replacement

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Reports
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – March 2009
  - FY 2008 Audited Financial Statements - Draft

III COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Administrative
- Investments
  - ETI Proposals – Receipt of Submissions
- Governmental Relations

IV NEW BUSINESS
- DOI Business Opportunities Conference/APILG Conference/Trustees and Administrator Institute

V EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
  - JEU Estate

VI MISCELLANEOUS
VII ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Vianney B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 27, 1999

Legislators dare rights group to show proof
Northern Marianas lawmakers yesterday shrugged off the latest attack against the Commonwealth after a human rights group accused the island of trafficking and abuse of its foreign workers. They also defended U.S. House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) from criticism of "improperly" using his position to stall legislation that will impose federal takeover of labor and immigrations laws in the CNMI. "I feel that DeLay is just doing what is necessary to address the CNMI position against any federal takeover that has been overlooked otherwise," said House Majority Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo.

Dr. Chong gets two years probation
Former health official Dr. Jose L. Chong was yesterday sentenced to two years probation and was ordered to return to the CNMI government close to $100,000 in illegal payments he received from a US-based health care provider for consulting services. In yesterday's sentencing at the court jampacked by relatives and friends, the 74-year-old Chong told US District Court Judge Alex Munson that he was sorry The sentencing concluded more than a three-year investigation and court hearings involving the former director of then Department of Public Health and a division of the San Diego Hospital Association or SHARP.

MAY 27, 2002

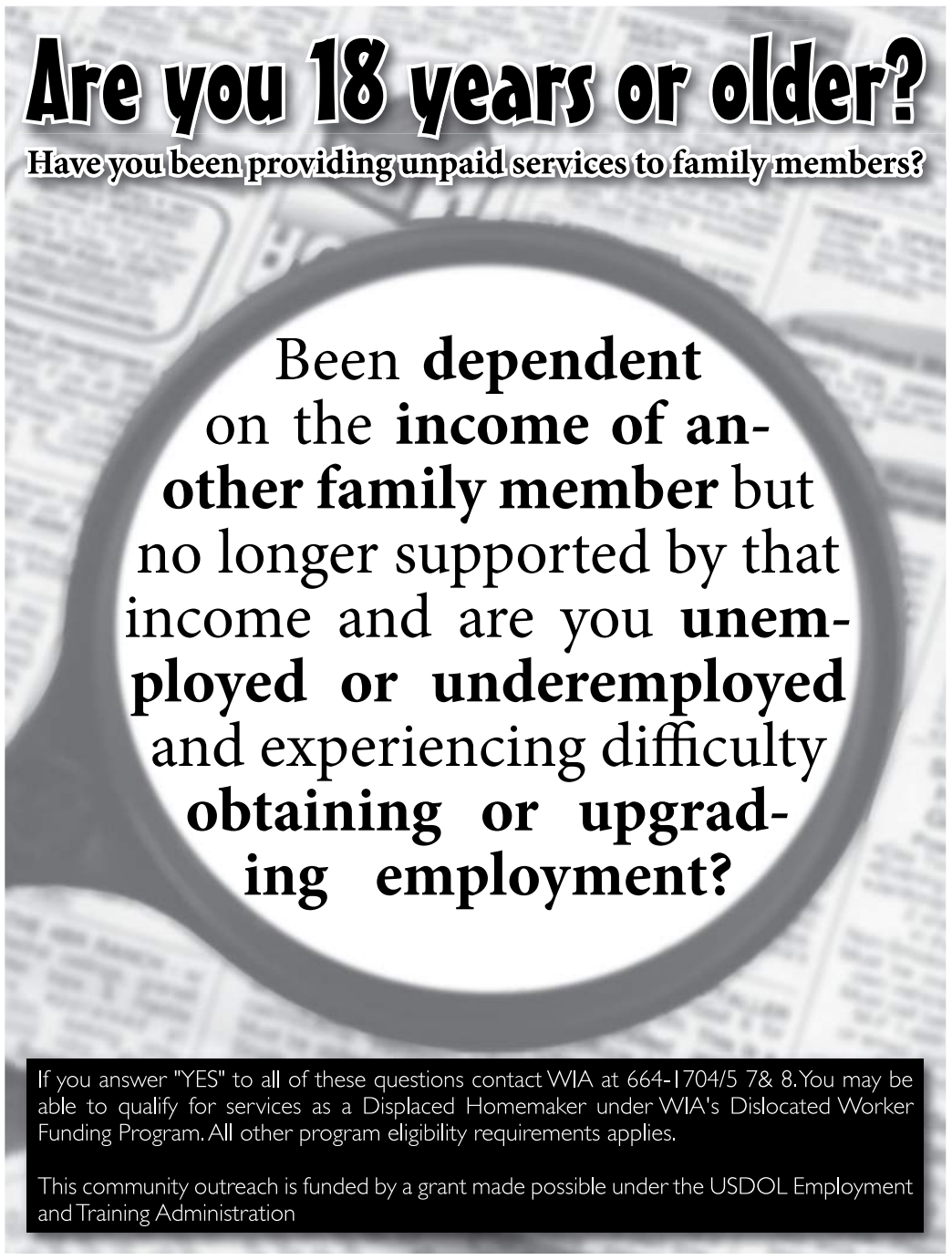
CPA alerted for possible attacks
The Commonwealth Ports Authority has implemented additional security measures at all CNMI airports in light of the newest terror alert issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The additional security measures will subject travelers to a more stringent inspection that includes scanning and inspection of even the smallest objects carried by departing passengers. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed Friday that hats, watches, shoes, jackets, and belts are but some of the newest addition to the long list of objects that need to be inspected prior to boarding.

Top graduates inspire crowd
Marie Nora P. Coleman and Betty J. Leonard—the valedictorians of the Northern Marianas Colleges' graduates of 2002—didn't exactly meet the profile of a traditional student. In between classes and academic commitments, they were also career and family women, making their way through college alongside students much younger than themselves. But despite the demands of a multi-faceted lifestyle, both managed to finish at the top of their class, graduating Summa Cum Laude in their chosen fields. Coleman completed her Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration with the highest honors while Leonard topped the first ever batch of NMC students to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

MAY 26, 2003

CNMI honors war heroes
The Northern Marianas and the United States honored fallen and surviving members of the military for their strong commitment to keep the torch of freedom and democracy burning. U.S. Pacific Command Representative Rear Admiral Patrick Dunne said that 180 soldiers who fought in the recently won war in Iraq had been added to the list of thousands of other war heroes who died in the service of their country and their people. "This Memorial Day would be celebrated with a personal note. We have a great country, a great history, and great people," said Dunne during the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Susupe.

Teacher: ACT can't force itself
The Association of Commonwealth Teachers could no longer force itself upon teachers or the government because it lacks consent and recognition as the representative of all public school teachers, according to Kagman High School teacher representative Ambrose Bennett. Bennett made the remarks in response to ACT's letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, which, he said, is not only disrespectful to teachers but also to the governor's office. "ACT has not only disrespected teachers, ACT is now trying to intimidate your office," said Bennett in his own letter to Babauta yesterday.


Are you 18 years or older?
Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?
Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT AND FORMER GARMENT WORKERS

The former Garment Oversight Board (GOB) has established a Garment Workers Trust Fund (GWTF) to assist garment workers who are still located on Saipan with any hardships resulting from their former employment as garment workers.

For example, if you are a former garment worker and are unable to depart Saipan in order to return to your country of origin, this is one of the hardships for which you may apply to the GWTF in order to receive assistance with your repatriation expenses.

Applications for assistance will be reviewed by a panel of three trustees consisting of the former board members of the GOB and approved on a case by case basis, based on a demonstrated need or hardship which is occasioned by an applicant's former status as a garment worker. The maximum amount of any such assistance to any one applicant shall be limited by the trustees and will only be exceeded in cases of exceptional hardship. What constitutes exceptional hardship shall be a determination solely within the discretion of the GWTF trustees.

You may apply for this assistance *ONLY* by submitting a readable written application to the GWTF, there is no special form, but your written application must:
1 - identify the applicant,
2 - describe the type of hardship the applicant is experiencing,
3 - state the name of the last garment factory applicant worked for,
4 - the date applicant stopped working as a garment worker, and
5 - include how applicant can be contacted so the GWTF may inform the applicant if his/her application has been approved.

Please identify yourself and your former employment as a garment worker as accurately as possible. If the GWTF cannot verify your status as a former garment worker, your application will not be acted upon. Applications may be submitted in Chinese or English.

SEND YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan, MP 96950

Applications for this assistance shall only be accepted until August 15th, 2009.

UPON APPROVAL APPLICANTS MUST PRESENT ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE THE APPLICANT.

THE GWTF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO APPLICANTS.

通告致所有现或前成衣厂工人

前成衣监管委员会曾建立一个成衣工人基金， 目的是帮助那些前就职于成衣厂因遭受困境而依然停留塞班的工人.

比如, 你是前成衣厂工人,无法离开塞班,返回自己的国家. 这样的一种困境, 你或许可以向成衣监管委员会提出申请, 寻求回国费用方面的帮助.

包括前成衣监管委员会董事会成员的三位委托人组成工作小组负责申请审核工作. 所有获得批准的申请将根据每个个案情况, 也基于证明有帮助的需要, 或遇到的困境是因为申请人是原成衣厂工人的身份. 所有申请者提出要求帮助的最大金额应该由受托人设定限额, 不可以超过规定的金额, 除非申请人遭遇到不同寻常的困境. 如何定义不同寻常困境将完全由成衣监管委员会受托人斟酌决定.

你或许有资格提出申请帮助. 唯一的办法是向成衣监管委员会递交一份能阅读的书面申请. 申请没有特别格式, 但书面申请必须包括:
1 - 申请人身份
2 - 申请人描述一下目前所经历的困境
3 - 申请人最后工作的成衣厂名字
4 - 申请人离开成衣厂的日期
5 - 如果申请获得批准,成衣监管委员会如何联系申请人

请尽量准确说明自己的身份和前就职于成衣厂的身份. 如果成衣监管委员会无法核实你是否是前成衣厂工人, 将不能受理申请. 所有的申请必须是中文或英文形式.
书面申请可以邮寄到:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan MP 96950

寻求帮助的申请截止日为2009年8月15日

获得批准的申请必须出示恰当的, 令人信服的身份证明以核实是申请者本人.

成衣监管委员会有权对申请人做出何种形式帮助的裁定.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 126

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A different credit crunch

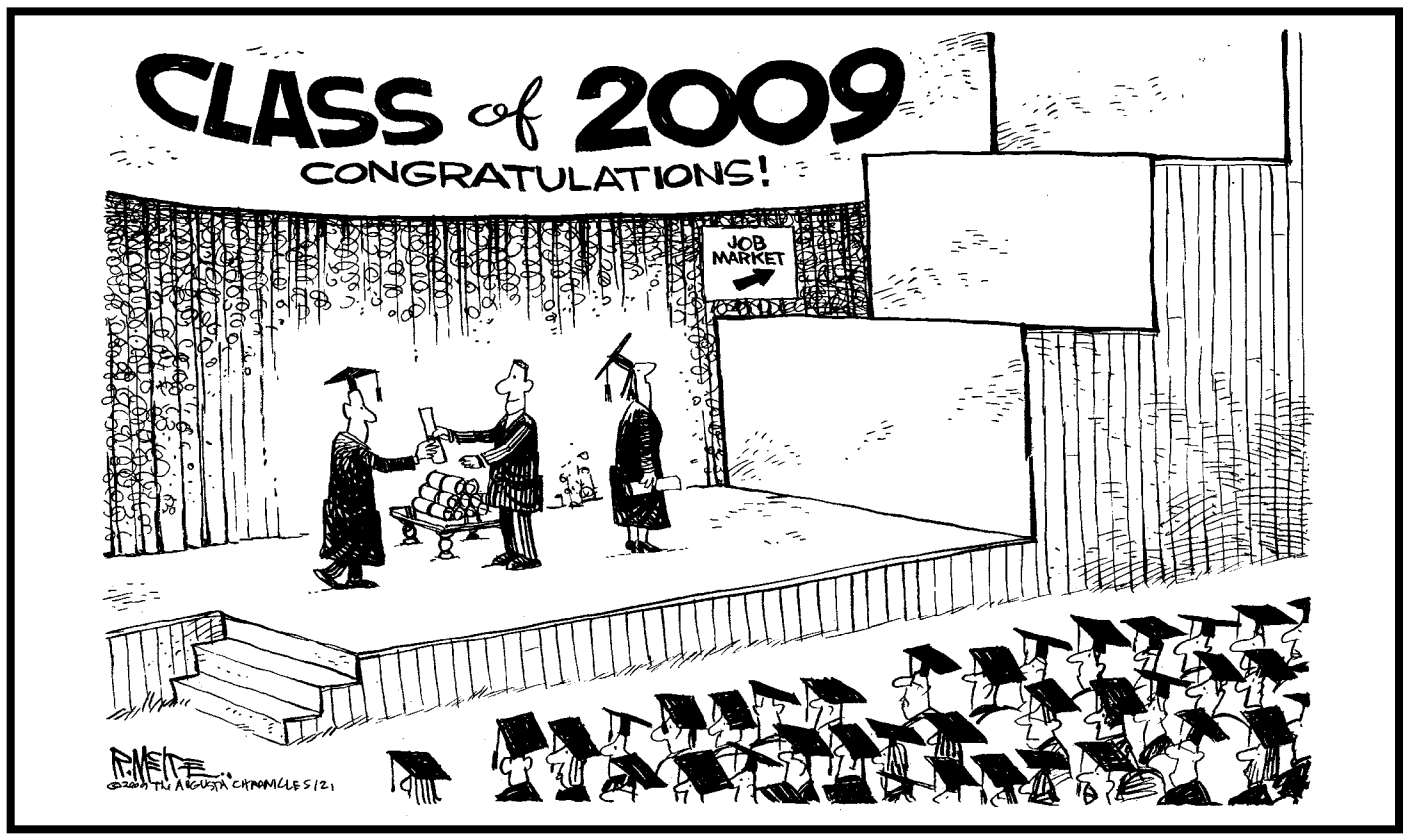
The bailouts may be winding down for the financial services industry, but the regulatory build-up is just beginning. New measures signed into law last week on credit card companies and mortgage lenders signal the postelection shift in attitude about the government's role in vigorously competitive markets. Congress is also considering additional safeguards on payday and home loans, and the administration may propose a new commission to regulate consumer credit and investment products. Rather than trusting market forces, Democrats in Congress and the administration argue that unbridled capitalism has victimized consumers. Deregulation, seen for so long as a way to spur innovation and efficiency, is now blamed for enabling onerous mortgages, skyrocketing credit card fees and burgeoning interest charges.

And so the backlash begins. But as the Democratic majorities in Congress clip the financial industry's wings in the hope of protecting vulnerable consumers, they're also raising costs and limiting the freedom of savvy investors and borrowers. Regulations designed to bar predatory behavior may go too far in restraining both businesses and consumers, many of whom do not want or need to be protected from themselves.

The credit card bill, for example, is a mix of sensible safeguards and arbitrary rules that are likely to shift costs onto less-risky borrowers. Among the welcome changes, it stops card issuers from slapping customers with fees for transactions that shouldn't have been approved or for payments that were recorded late because the issuers mishandled them. But like the Federal Reserve's new truth-in-lending rules, it also bars issuers from changing interest rates during new customers' first year regardless of their behavior. This restriction could lead issuers to raise the cost or limit the availability of cards for all applicants with thin or damaged credit histories.

The housing bubble and subsequent credit crunch exposed some problems that justify a rebalancing of the regulatory scales. Nevertheless, we don't think Congress should micromanage how banks and other suppliers of credit deliver services in highly competitive markets. The role of lawmakers and regulators is much more broad. They should demand disclosures that are full and easy to understand. They should prevent lenders from setting debt traps for customers or surprising them with fees for services delivered without consent. And they should prohibit business models that are indifferent to or profit from consumers' inability to repay what they borrow. Beyond that, companies should be free to innovate and compete, and their customers should be expected to understand the risks.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Why isn't my website making money?

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

A 'Walt's Websites That Sell' Case Study #1: Gameslady.com

A few weeks ago I took on a client and offered to help boost her sales by redesigning her website. With her previous design, which had been up for several months, she had garnered no sales. We began our experiment, and within a short period of time started receiving positive feedback from visitors, an increase in mailing list subscriptions, and ultimately, her first sales!

Barbara Sher is a Saipan, CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) resident and author who creates games to help children have fun learning. She has written eight books and recorded one CD/tape on activities for children. Her books have been translated into eight languages; Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Estonian, Arabic, Russian and Swedish. She has written numerous articles for publications such as *Mothering Magazine, Advance* magazine, U.K's *Kindred Spirit* and on-line zine *Writers Grrls*. She is also a recipient of the World Rehabilitation Fund's "International Exchange of Experts" fellowship.

Barbara's previous books were published by Jossey-Bass, a subsidiary of Wiley Books, whose brands include For Dummies, Frommer's, CliffsNotes, Betty Crocker and J.K. Lasser. She's now exploring the self-publishing route I always advocate *(see "The Case for Self-Publishing Walt's Way, Tribune Dec 24, 2008)*

Today's article is a case study of Barbara's www.GamesLady.com website. I'll interview Barbara herself in a future "Saipanpreneur Profile."

A few secrets

Here are a few of the things we did to help make Gameslady.com a website that sells. Of course, I can't reveal ALL my secrets, but these are a few of the obvious ones you can glean from actually visiting the site, and which I've used over the years to generate online sales for myself and my clients.

1. Lead with Testimonials

People follow people. The first thing you'll notice at gameslady.com is that we lead in with what others have said about Barbara's books and workshops. The power of testimonials cannot be overemphasized. Great testimonials, reviews and customer feedback are enough to sell just about anything. If you have limited time and space to make a pitch, focus on what respected authorities, as well as average people say about your product or service.

2. Simple long-form design

Rather than create a multi-layered website, I used a long-form style where all the information is presented on a single page. Boring? Perhaps. But quite effective. This keeps people from getting lost within the site. Everything they need to know is right there, and all they have to do is scroll down to see. At the end of a long form site, you want people to do one or both of two things: 1. Place an order, 2. Sign up to the mailing list.

3. Video of Barbara

People connect with people. In this case, as a woman selling games for children, I felt it was important to have people see and connect with Barbara, as a living, breathing person. So, I had Barbara film a short video right here on Saipan (no need for big production budgets, she used a regular digital camera), upload it to Youtube, and from there, I embedded it into the site. (Some of the first positive feedback she received, in fact, mentioned her "persuasive video presentation.")

4. Follow Webwatch Guidelines

There are other, more subtle things that have been incorporated that, in essence, build trust, establish credibility, encourage people to see the value in what is being offered, and most importantly feel safe in entering their credit card information to make a purchase.

Trusted consumer advocacy group, Consumer Reports, publishes what they call their "Webwatch Guidelines," a set of policies (for identity, advertising, customer service, and privacy issues) that they encourage all websites to incorporate to promote overall web credibility. Some of the Webwatch policies include:

- Web sites should clearly disclose the physical location where they are produced, including an address, a telephone number or e-mail address.
- Sites should clearly disclose their purpose and mission.
- Sites should clearly disclose all fees charged, including service, transaction and handling fees, and shipping costs. This information should be disclosed before the ordering process begins.
- Sites should clearly state and enforce policies for returning unwanted items or canceling transactions or reservations.
- Sites should clearly disclose how personal data from site visitors and customers will be used. Personal data includes name, address, phone number and credit card number.

These and other design elements are critical to online success.

A few important points

It's always difficult to pinpoint exactly why a specific customer orders from a site. Is it the new design? Is it mainly the video? Were they re-

See WHY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gambling and gambling devices

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office. E-mail him at saipansmith1940@yahoo.com.

A hundred years ago a gentleman named John Philip Quinn wrote a book titled *Gambling and Gambling Devices*; the copyright on the first edition of his that I have is 1896. Mr. Quinn was himself a reformed gambler—and cheat—who had at some point developed a conscience, or so he said. He became a born-again Christian. His book, his second, the follow up to his *Fool's of Fortune*, is fascinating reading.

The book, again *Gambling and Gambling Devices,* described all kinds of cheating methodologies, many of them–for the era—very high tech. Card holdouts, loaded dice, marking systems, sleight of hand skills, and what we might refer to today as various methods of psychological warfare were included. Quinn's avowed purpose in writing his epic exposé was to warn the unwary to be wary when involved in any form of gambling and especially when the game included strangers.

In an era where the economy seems to be in a continuous downward spiral, some things, some industries may yet prosper. One such industry is the food industry; people eat when they're depressed. Another such industry is the gaming industry. "Hope springs eternal," as they say, and as desperation mounts, often the most vulnerable are apt to make the worst of choices. Their rationale of course is that since things can't get any worse, they may as well go "all in" and hope for the best. Well, the premise that allowed them to take the big gamble was of course a false one, i.e., it was possible for things to get worse. Mister Quinn discovered this in midlife and made the change and became a teetotaler, at least in terms of gambling.

Gambling can be addictive and can be driven by ego or economic desperation or simply the thrill of the chase. I confess that as a young man I was caught up in such a chase. I loved to play poker, and I won! Well, I won until one day my "ego" led me to move up in class, i.e., a higher limit game than I was used to. They killed me. They destroyed me! They economically raped me! But, there was a silver lining. Being the military genius that I obviously was, and realizing that I had no hope of ever being really any good at the game, I never played again. And glorious now to recall, I was so distraught and distracted that day that I called up my then girlfriend, who was at the time touring with the Ice Capades in Canada, and proposed; she divorced me 17 years later. The moral to this last might be to never make major decisions when distraught, desperate, or confused. Quinn would have understood and empathized.

Truth be told, gaming and risk taking and wild and wooly decision making are not in themselves necessarily bad things. They are human things that, as the gods of such would have it, are fraught with consequences. It is the consequences that intelligent people must look to before making the leap. Failure to keep this latter maxim in mind "is" necessarily bad. Put another way, don't do it if you don't know what you're doing; or if in doubt don't do it. It ain't gonna work out most times, folks, so figure it out and act accordingly.

I mentioned above that John Philip, the guru of us reformed sinners, had become a devout and born-again Christian. In the interest of fairness, I should also point out that at age 47, he ran off with the preacher's daughter; she was 16. Well, we are all guilty of "some" poor choices, I guess, even Mr. Quinn.

Letters to the Editor

Setting the record straight

Permit me to set the record straight, if I may, on the position of the Department of the Interior in regards to U.S. Public Law 110-229 (the Consolidated and Natural Resources Act of 2008), which provides for the establishment of federal immigration control in the CNMI starting next Nov. 28, as stated in the testimony of Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Nik Pula, before the house Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, last week in Washington, D.C.

A page one headline in the *Marianas Variety* (Thursday, May 21) said: "Guam, Interior Favor Federalization Delay." The story then went on to refer to Mr. Pula's testimony, stating, "Pula also supported a delay but hinted that the final decision lies with the Obama Administration."

The headline and this statement are incorrect.

What was correct, were the two paragraphs that followed, which factually addressed what he said.

The first paragraph noted the requirement in the law for Interior to provide a report on the status of long-term guest workers to Congress, two years after the law's enactment.

The second paragraph quoted Mr. Pula's testimony requesting the deadline for the required report to be extended one year.

This extension request, as noted in the testimony, was made in order to have adequate time to collect the appropriate data for a satisfactory and thorough report, particularly as much of that information would be likely to be more accurate once the law—now delayed 180 days—takes effect later this year, with its impact better measured.

The incorrect assessment of Mr. Pula's testimony in this May 21st story may have led to a repeated misinterpretation of what he said that appeared in the next day's *Variety*, Friday (May 22), in which human rights advocate Wendy Doromal is quoted as finding "disturbing" the "request of Nikaolo Pula...for a delay in the implementation of the federalization law."

Requesting a further delay in the implementation of the law, which Mr. Pula did NOT do; and requesting a delay in a required report--impacted by the 180-day delay from the original, envisioned date (June 1, 2009) of the law's implementation—which Mr. Pula DID do; are two entirely different things.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the record.

Jeff Schorr
Field Representative
Office of Insular Affairs
Department of the Interior
Saipan

Religion subjects as Literature credits

Why doesn't the school board regard these religion classes as mythology and give these transfer students English credits or history credits? For instance, if a student took a class in Native American literature, he or she would likely read creation myths similar to those in the Bible. Either God created the world in seven days or a turtle plunged into the endless sea then surfaced with a clod of dirt on its shell, which, of course, expanded to form the earth....thus, the turtle walks slowly because it is carrying the weight of the world on its back. Who is to say that the latter isn't true? Yeah, literature credit.

Christina Zuccaro
via e-mail

WHY

From Page 10

ferred by a trusted source? You'll likely have those questions, too.

During our experiment, Barbara had many suggestions and questions about how we were proceeding. So in response to Barbara's (and your) questions about the specifics of online success, here are a few bits of advice, and observations from actual emails I sent to her.

1. Sometimes less is more

"More is not necessarily better. There is an art to leaving enough UNSAID so as to encourage people to use their imaginations to make the sale (i.e. convince themselves to purchase) for themselves. If you've ever purchased from catalogs/mail order in the past—especially when you were a child—you might recall the thrill of having your mind work overtime imagining all sorts of things about your doll/book/dress/sea monkeys/pet rock based on just a few choice words and pictures in an ad. It's that sense of anticipation of "what's in store" that good sales copy evokes."

2. Everything is a process

"Yes, those sales might have happened even if the site had not been redesigned. We'll never know, but what we *do* know is that you didn't make *any* sales for the months the site was as it was before. Now the site is different, and you made sales. Coincidence perhaps? Correlation doesn't equal causation, but even if the only purpose the new design served was to make you more proud of it, and thus more motivated to send your e-mail announcement of your new book to your mailing list, the fact remains, it was part of the *process* that got us here—a process that has now begun."

3. Be realistic about and recognize your progress

"I remember reading an article many years ago that stated that something like 97 percent of websites on the Internet *never* make any money. Millions of people pay for/and/or build sites, create products, advertise, and wait, and *never* make a single sale, *ever*. Your new site has been up about 60 days, and you've already generated a growing mailing list and are making sales, putting you, whether you realize it or not, in the top 3 percent of sites worldwide. And, most significantly, those sales came right after you DID something to generate them, which brings us to..."

4. You need to be doing more

"I read another article many years ago, as well, that likened people's expectations of Internet profits to *"building a store in a vast desert and wondering why no one is showing up to make them rich!"*

Your previous publisher makes sales because they are doing things to make those sales. They have an established reputation, good will, sales agents, advertising campaigns, relationships with sales outlets, an existing distribution channel, satisfied customers, and much more which make the sale of a thousand books a month quite an easy feat. You have a single store in the middle of a desert, with an average of 10 people a day visiting.

All we've done up to this point, is simply change the design, and wait for people to find us. As a "newbie" self-published author, you should be

- sending out a weekly, or monthly email to your fan base/mailing list;
- arranging interviews on radio;
- registering your site with other directories;
- visiting and posting on bulletin boards, blogs and chat rooms;
- writing and promoting articles based on your expertise;
- creating more YouTube videos and promoting them;
- sending review copies to magazines, etc."

Yes, it's a bit more than simply "build it and they will come!"

Finally

The list of what it takes to make a website truly sell goes on and on. It is part art and part science. It involves intuition. It involves following rules. It differs from site to site. It changes based on the season, the product being offered and a hundred other factors. However, we were able to accomplish this for Barbara Sher's Gameslady.com. I hope some of what we learned in her case study will be useful to make *your* own website one of the few, one of the proud, and one of the profitable….websites that sell!

Check out my "Websites That Sell" ebook which comes as part of the 48-Hour Quickstart Manual available at www.passionprofit.com

■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

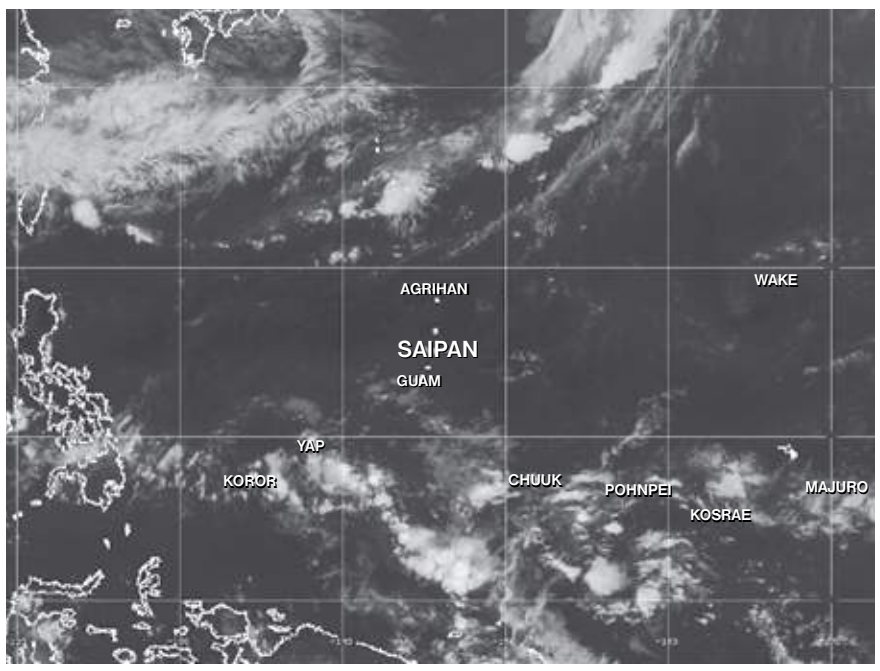
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Hong Kong	Rain	▲81	▼77
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Rain	▲63	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼74
New York	Showers	▲68	▼59
Osaka	Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Paris	Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Pusan	Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲83	▼60
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲82	▼59
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼61
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲80	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergence associated with a weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers west and south of Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 10N148E to 5N145E to EQ151E to EQ157E back to 10N148E. Trade-wind convergence is generating widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Kwajalein and near Majuro and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 7N162E to 5N172E to EQ166E to EQ172E to 7N174E to 9N165E to 9N162E to 7N162E. Southerly convergence ahead of a cold front north of the discussion area is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 21N148E to 25N153E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:47 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:23 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:01 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:22 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:12 AM	9:40 PM
Thursday	9:18 AM	10:34 PM
Friday	10:21 AM	11:22 PM
Saturday	11:20 AM	
Sunday	12:15 PM	12:06 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

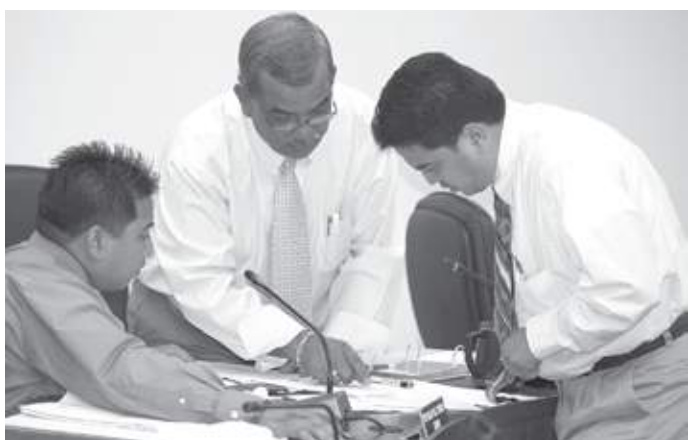
Island Snapshots

MARCH AGAINST CANCER HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A young woman stands in the middle of lit candles representing victims and survivors of cancer in the CNMI during the March Against Cancer that started at 6pm on Friday and wrapped up on 6am on Saturday on the grounds of Hopwood Junior High School in San Antonio. The Marianas March Against Cancer's signature event on awareness, prevention and treatment of cancer raised over $77,000 this year, surpassing last year's $71,000.

MEMORIAL DAY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rear Admiral William French, left, commander of the Navy Region Marianas, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial share a light moment with other guests during Monday's memorial Day celebration at the American Memorial Park. The two officials led the laying of the wreaths for the annual ceremony.



MONEY MATTERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Reps. Ralph Torres, Oscar M. Babauta and Ray N. Yumul go over documents during a break at the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's session on Thursday, about five hours of which were spent debating a local bill appropriating $387,742 in lapsed/unobligated funding to various activities and programs.

FIELD TRIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Green Meadow School go on a whole-day field trip on May 22, 2009, to different establishments on the island, including the Saipan International Airport's fire station. Here, a fire station personnel briefs the students about what they do.

NMC NURSING GRADUATES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to all NMC Nursing Graduates of 2009. Bottom going up, from left to right: Daisy Cabrera, Pasquana Calvo, Rose Thompson, Adelle Bea, Salve Race, Joan Bahillo, Hye Young Tae, Baby Rejano, Jihyun Kim (cum laude), Paz Conti, Haemi Kim, Lovelle D'Lonsod, Mary Rose Alvarez (cum laude), Nela Prado, Jayson Abigania, John Cox, Genevive Bahatan, Leo Valeros, Charles Shin. Not in photo: Emily Young (magna cum laude) and Julia Kim.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Green Meadow School go on a whole-day field trip on May 22, 2009, to the Saipan International Airport's fire station, Dental Care, and Kalayaan Catering. The students had lunch at the American Memorial Park and then watched a movie at the Hollywood Theatres.

TEAM BODIG NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of Team Bodig gather for a group photo after winning four special awards during the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer last Friday at the Hopwood Jr. High. Team Bodig raised $11,045.42 to lead the *Pulan* category in the highest funds raised. Bodig also had the most luminaries sold with 1,194, the best baton award, and the team with the best spirit.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Frank "Ankie" C. Borja, who is celebrating his birthday today. Birthday wishes and greetings coming from his entire family, friends, the Public Lands crew, and most of all, from your one and only.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Mariana Katherine "Matty" Angeles. We love you. Greetings come from your Dad and Mama.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Bodig's team captain Jocelyn Guerrero leads the members of the organizing committee of the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer during the awarding ceremonies last Saturday morning at the Hopwood Junior High.

Business

Crisis spurs spike in 'suburban survivalists'

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Six months ago, Jim Wiseman didn't even have a spare nutrition bar in his kitchen cabinet.

Now, the 54-year-old businessman and father of five has a backup generator, a water filter, a grain mill and a 4-foot-tall pile of emergency food tucked in his home in the expensive San Diego suburb of La Jolla.

Wiseman isn't alone. Emergency supply retailers and military surplus stores nationwide have seen business boom in the past few months as an increasing number of Americans spooked by the economy rush to stock up on gear that was once the domain of hardcore survivalists.

These people snapping up everything from water purification tablets to thermal blankets shatter the survivalist stereotype: they are mostly urban professionals with mortgages, SUVs, solid jobs and a twinge of embarrassment about their newfound hobby.

From teachers to real estate agents, these budding emergency gurus say the dismal economy has made them prepare for financial collapse as if it were an oncoming Category 5 hurricane. They worry about rampant inflation, runs on banks, bare grocery shelves and widespread power failures that could make taps run dry.

AP

Jim Wiseman leans on a bin of wheat in front of food stores in his garage in La Jolla, Calif. Thursday, May, 7, 2009.

For Wiseman, a fire protection contractor, that's meant spending roughly $20,000 since September on survival gear—and trying to persuade others to do the same.

"The UPS guy drops things off and he sees my 4-by-8-by-6-foot pile of food and I say 'What are you doing to prepare, buddy?'" he said. "Because there won't be a thing left on any shelf of any supermarket in the country if people's confidence wavers."

The surge in interest in emergency stockpiling has been a bonanza for camping supply companies and military surplus vendors, some of whom report sales spikes of up to 50 percent. These companies usually cater to people preparing for earthquakes or hurricanes, but informal customer surveys now indicate the bump is from first-time shoppers who cite financial, not natural, disaster as their primary concern, they say.

Top sellers include 55-gallon water jugs, waterproof containers, freeze-dried foods, water filters, water purification tablets, glow sticks, lamp oil, thermal blankets, dust masks, first-aid kits and inexpensive tents.

Joe Branin, owner of the online emergency supply store Living Fresh, said he's seen a 700 percent increase in orders for water purification tablets in the past month and a similar increase in orders for sterile water pouches. He is shipping meals ready to eat and food bars by the case to residential addresses nationwide.

Global milk glut squeezes dairy farmers, consumers

BARNHART, Mo. (AP)—A collapse in milk prices has wiped away the profits of dairy farmers, driving many out of business while forcing others to slaughter their herds or dump milk on the ground in protest. But nine months after prices began tumbling on the farm, consumers aren't seeing the full benefits of the crash at the checkout counter.

The average price for a gallon of milk at grocery stores last month is down just 19 percent from its peak of $3.83 in July. Farmers, on the other hand, got $1.04 a gallon in April—35 percent less than they were paid last fall. This winter, wholesale prices were down as much as 45 percent.

Price disparities are a fact of life both for farmers and anyone who shops at a supermarket, but the nature of milk—how it's stored, priced and sold around the world—makes the gap all the more dramatic. In fact, the price that farmers get has been wildly volatile for years, creating a succession of booms and busts felt from pastures to the grocery store.

With each turn, proposals are floated to end the pricing seesaw, which at one extreme squeezes the profits of farmers and the other squeezes dairy processors. Any fix that boosts the price of milk runs the risk of bumping up how much consumers pay, too.

Today, frustrations are spilling over as the price crash creates widely divergent fortunes within the milk industry, boosting profits for the middlemen like dairy processors while pushing farmers to the edge of bankruptcy.

Darrell Kraus, a dairyman in Barnhart, spends almost as much today on hay and other supplies for his herd of 160 cows as he did a year ago, but he's getting paid less for a gallon of milk than his father in the 1970s. He blames middlemen who buy the milk from the dairies, process it and sell it to grocery stores at higher prices.

Consumer group pushes J&J on chemicals in shampoo

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A coalition of health, environmental and consumer groups is demanding that health products giant Johnson & Johnson remove tiny amounts of two chemicals suspected of causing cancer from its Johnson's Baby Shampoo and other products.

In a letter sent late Friday by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics to J&J's chief executive, William Weldon, the seven-year-old group asks the company by the end of August to reformulate its personal care products so that they are free of 1,4-dioxane and any preservatives that release formaldehyde.

The letter was signed by nearly 50 groups representing about 1.7 million members, from the Environmental Working Group and Friends of the Earth to the American Nurses Association and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Honda overtakes Toyota in parts supplier survey

NEW YORK (AP)—Honda Motor Co. overtook Toyota Motor Corp. as the top company that auto parts suppliers prefer to do business with, according to an annual survey released Monday.

Toyota has been the No. 1 automaker among the parts suppliers since 2002, but its ratings have fallen steadily over the last two years, according to a study by Planning Perspectives Inc., a Birmingham, Mich.-based company that surveys manufacturing and service industries. Honda's marks declined from last year as well, though not by as much.

Japanese automakers continued to boast the best relations with their suppliers, with Nissan Motor Co. coming in third among the six automakers ranked. Ford Motor Co.'s supplier relations improved dramatically for the second year in a row, coming in fourth, followed by General Motors Corp. then Chrysler LLC.

"While Ford still has a lot of work to do, what they're doing with their suppliers is working," said John W. Henke, president and chief executive of Planning Perspectives, in a written statement.

Suppliers who work with Toyota complained of a younger, less experienced staff at the Japanese automaker's purchasing group, Henke said. It said Ford's improvement was due to its recent decision to transfer its top European purchasing executive to the U.S.

Ford remains the only automaker among the Detroit Three that has not accepted government aid.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Merkel: Aim to separate Opel quickly from GM

BERLIN (AP)—Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that Germany aims to loosen European unit Opel's ties with troubled parent General Motors Corp. before a possible Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by GM. Merkel, whose government is examining three rival bids for German-based Adam Opel GmbH, indicated that decisions on Opel's future will have to be made in the middle of this week. The government says it's up to GM to choose an investor, while Germany will decide whether and how to lend support. "What we do not want is to end up in a situation where we practically become appendages of ... possible Chapter 11 proceedings or something similar," Merkel said at a news conference.

CAW votes to accept cost-cutting deal with GM

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Auto Workers members voted 86 percent in favor of a cost-cutting deal with General Motors Canada as the automaker bids to qualify for more government loans and assure its future in Canada. Union leader Ken Lewenza said his members had no choice but to vote for it. "They understand the crisis in the auto industry," Lewenza said in a telephone interview. "The vote shows that." Lewenza said the deal allows GM Canada to meet the cost benchmarks set by the federal Canadian and provincial Ontario governments, namely making cuts to become competitive with non-unionized Toyota Canada. The deal also stipulates that GM's car assembly and parts plants in Ontario will stay open.

Oil down to around $61 ahead of OPEC meeting

Oil prices fell to around $61 a barrel Monday as investors eyed an OPEC meeting this week and weighed evidence of a global economic recovery. Trading was light because U.S. markets are closed Monday for Memorial Day. Benchmark crude for July delivery was down 62 cents to $61.05 a barrel by mid-afternoon in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, the contract rose 62 cents to settle at $61.67.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,781.60 Up 46.30 (+1.24%)
HONG KONG	16,991.56 Down 130.26 (-0.76%)
JAKARTA	1,864.34 Down 26.63 (-1.41%)
TOKYO	9,310.81 Down 36.19 (-0.39%)
K. LUMPUR	1,052.95 Down 0.19 (-0.02%)
MANILA	2,309.68 Down 24.94 (-1.07%)
SINGAPORE	2,246.05 Down 21.45 (-0.94%)
SEOUL	1,290.05 Down 27.74 (-2.11%)
BANGKOK	387.07 Down 3.64 (-0.93%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,277.32 -14.81
S&P	887.00 -1.33
NASDAQ	1,692.01 -3.24

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2881
British Pound	0.6317
Canadian Dollar	1.1302
Chinese Yuan	6.8305
Euro	0.7185
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7519
Indian Rupee	47.6850
Indonesian Rupiah	10,405.0000
Japanese Yen	94.7300
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5110
New Zealand Dollar	1.6247
Philippine Peso	47.3550
Singapore Dollar	1.4513
South Korean Won	1,244.4000
Swiss Franc	1.0901
Taiwan Dollar	32.6450
Thailand Baht	34.4900

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

President lays wreath at Tomb of Unknowns

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama avoided a racial controversy on his first Memorial Day in office by sending wreaths to separate memorials for Confederate soldiers and for blacks who fought against them during the Civil War.

Last week, a group of about 60 professors petitioned the White House, asking the first black U.S. president to break tradition and not memorialize military members from the Confederacy, the group of Southern states that supported slavery.

"The Arlington Confederate Monument is a denial of the wrong committed against African-Americans by slave owners, Confederates and neo-Confederates, through the monument's denial of slavery as the cause of secession and its holding up of Confederates as heroes," the petitioners said. "This implies that the humanity of Africans and African-Americans is of no significance."

AP

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe, walks prior to laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Monday, May 25, 2009, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. during a Memorial Day ceremony.

The White House ignored the request.

Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, a customary presidential undertaking on Memorial Day. He also had one sent to the Confederate Memorial there, a traditional practice but not well publicized. Obama also took the unprecedented step of sending a wreath to the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington's historically black U Street neighborhood.

That memorial—to the 200,000 blacks who fought for the North during the Civil War—had been mentioned as a compromise in recent days.

Chicago reports nation's 12th death from swine flu

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago resident has died of swine flu, the first death in Illinois and the 12th nationally, from the illness, health authorities said Monday.

Authorities in Mexico, where the swine flu outbreak was identified in April, announced three more deaths, raising its total to 83, and Canada reported its second death.

"With as many cases of H1N1 influenza that have been reported in Illinois, we have been concerned that there would be fatalities," said Dr. Damon Arnold, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. The state lists 896 confirmed cases of the illness, known both as H1N1 and swine flu.

Before the latest reports, the World Health Organization tallied at least 91 deaths around the globe from more than 12,500 swine flu cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counted 10 deaths and 6,700 cases in the U.S., most of them mild. New York health officials reported another death over the weekend.

At least 46 countries have confirmed cases, according to WHO. Puerto Rico reported its first case Monday, making it the second Caribbean island to confirm the illness. The man is recuperating at home.

Arnold said in a statement that the victim in Chicago had other medical conditions, but authorities released no other information about the person. The health department said the victim died over the weekend.

Mom returns voluntarily with cancer-stricken boy

NEW ULM, Minn. (AP)—A 13-year-old cancer patient and his mother, who fled Minnesota last week to avoid court-ordered chemotherapy for him, returned voluntarily Monday, and the boy was being evaluated by a doctor, a sheriff and the family's attorney said.

Daniel Hauser was "immediately checked over medically" when he and his mother arrived on a charter flight at 3 a.m., Brown County Sheriff Rich Hoffmann said.

He did not say where the pair have been since they missed a court hearing last Tuesday, or whether Daniel received medical treatment for his Hodgkin's lymphoma while they were gone.

"It is a good day as Daniel and Colleen Hauser have been safely returned to Minnesota," Hoffmann said.

Because Colleen Hauser returned voluntarily, a warrant for her arrest was lifted. Hoffmann said he could not comment on whether there could be possible charges against her.

Daniel Hauser was being evaluated at a hospital in the Twin Cities on Monday, according to Tom Hagen, an attorney at the law office representing Daniel's parents.

Hagen said Calvin Johnson, his associate who represents Daniel's parents, is out of town and unavailable for comment, but authorized Hagen to disclose that information about the Hausers.

A message left for Daniel's court-appointed attorney was not returned Monday.

Dr. Bruce Bostrom, the pediatric oncologist at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota who diagnosed Daniel's cancer in January, said he was happy to hear of the boy's return.

"I'm delighted," Bostrom said. "I've been so worried that he was going to die in Mexico. I've been praying for his safe return, so I think my prayers will be answered."

ACROSS THE NATION

Ariz. police: Graduation party killer was jealous

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—Police say a man accused of killing his ex-girlfriend and her boyfriend at an Arizona high school graduation party apparently was upset at seeing the couple kiss. Investigators say 37-year-old Brent Matthew Banks was motivated by jealousy when he shot the victims in the front yard of the house hosting the party Saturday. Police say Banks also shot at police, and six people were hurt by either gunshots or bullet fragments. A police officer was shot in the arm, but the other injuries were minor. Sally S. Johnson-Huddleston and Auston G. Blanks were killed. No response was made to a request for a jailhouse interview with Banks. He was booked on counts of first-degree murder, aggravated assault and kidnapping.

Man dies after rescuing 7-year-old boy from pit

DETROIT (AP)—A 58-year-old man has died after rescuing a 7-year-old boy who fell into a water-filled hole at a Detroit construction site. Wayne State University police Sgt. Robert Barron said the boy was playing Sunday at a home under construction on Miracle Street when he fell into the foundation pit that was dug for the basement. The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News reported the man was Garrett Townsend of Detroit. WDIV-TV says he managed to rescue the child, but wasn't able to get himself out of the water. Emergency responders pulled him out and rushed him to a hospital, where he died.

Hillary Rodham Clinton surprises Yale graduates

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a surprise return to her alma mater on Monday, picking up an honorary degree from Yale University 36 years after earning her law degree from the Ivy League school. Graduates celebrating commencement at Yale erupted in cheers as Clinton was introduced. In keeping with Yale tradition, the names of honorary degree recipients are a closely held secret, although word began trickling out Sunday of Clinton's participation. None of the 10 honorary degree recipients spoke during the morning ceremony held for the university at large, where Yale handed out 2,868 undergraduate and graduate degrees. It was the school's 308th commencement ceremony.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES
BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Humanities Council.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

World

Troops in Iraq, Afghanistan honor their fallen

AP

US soldiers pray, during a Memorial Day ceremony at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, May 25, 2009.

BAGHDAD (AP)—American troops on Memorial Day honored their fallen on two battlefields, one war winding down and another ramping up. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military remembered the toll so far on the troops—more than 4,900 dead—with the outcome still unclear.

In Iraq, soldiers and Marines stood solemnly during a playing of Taps at Baghdad's Camp Victory. They saluted a memorial of a single helmet propped on a rifle beside a pair of boots.

Thousands of miles away, in the Afghan capital of Kabul, soldiers left mementos at a similar memorial for two comrades who recently died.

"Memorial Day for us is intensely personal," Gen. David McKiernan, the outgoing U.S. commander in Afghanistan, told a crowd at Camp Eggers. The training command based there has lost 70 soldiers since last Memorial Day.

"It is the empty seat in the mess hall, the battle buddy who is no longer here, or the friend who did not return from patrol. And it is the commitment to carry on with the mission in their honor," McKiernan said.

In Iraq, long the main focus of America's "Global War on Terror," the loss has been no less bitter.

"We grieve their loss and we smile at their memory," Brig. Gen. Peter C. Bayer Jr. told a crowd of about 100 at Camp Victory on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

But after six years of war and 4,300 dead, the end is in sight in Iraq.

America's combat role in the long and painful conflict is to finish by September 2010. Most of the 130,000 troops are expected to go home next year as the U.S. shifts military resources to Afghanistan.

Iran's Ahmadinejad wants to debate Obama at UN

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proposed on Monday a face-to-face debate with President Barack Obama at the United Nations if he is re-elected next month as Iran's president.

But he balanced the offer with a sharp rebuke to Washington and its allies over Iran's nuclear program. He reiterated that Iran would never abandon its advances in uranium enrichment in exchange for offers of easing sanctions or other economic incentives.

The nuclear issue "is closed," he told a news conference.

Obama has urged a "serious process of engagement" after Iran's elections in an effort to end a nearly 30-year diplomatic chill. However last week, the American leader said the U.S. was prepared to seek deeper international sanctions against Tehran if it did not respond positively to the attempts to open negotiations on its nuclear program. Obama set a year-end deadline for Iran to show it wanted to engage with Washington.

The tough talk on nuclear negotiations following Iran's test last week of a long-range missile appear aimed at burnishing Ahmadinejad's hard-line credentials in the election campaign against another conservative and two pro-reform candidates.

His offer of to debate Obama could also be campaign posturing before the June 12 vote. But it does put Ahmadinejad on record as supporting a potentially groundbreaking encounter following Obama's offer for dialogue.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez: Venezuela could leave OAS, join Cuba

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez says Venezuela could eventually withdraw from the Organization of American States and seek Cuba's help to create an alternative regional group. Chavez claims the OAS serves the interests of the United States. The Venezuelan leader has repeatedly criticized Cuba's expulsion from the organization in 1962 on grounds that its communist government went against the hemispheric body's principles. Chavez said Monday that "Venezuela would love to join Cuba" as a non-member. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez chimed in, saying Latin American and Caribbean nations should create an organization that "serves our people rather than the Empire," a reference to the United States.

Russia to sign new uranium contract with US

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia will sign a groundbreaking commercial contract on Tuesday to supply U.S. utility companies with enriched uranium fuel, a Russian atomic industry official said. Under the contract, state-run Tekhsnabeksport would supply U.S. markets with nuclear fuel enriched from raw uranium for the first time, Tekhsnabeksport marketing executive Vadim Mikerin told The Associated Press. Fuel previously supplied by Russia had been extracted from old nuclear weapons and diluted for commercial use, under a deal aimed at keeping Russian nuclear materials off black markets.

Asia

UN Security Council condemns NKorea nuke test

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council swiftly condemned North Korea's nuclear test on Monday as "a clear violation" of a 2006 resolution banning them and said it will start work immediately on a new one that could result in stronger measures against the reclusive nation.

Hours after North Korea defiantly conducted its second test, its closest allies China and Russia joined Western powers and representatives from the rest of the world on the council to voice strong opposition to the underground explosion.

After a brief emergency meeting held at Japan's request, the council demanded that North Korea abide by two previous resolutions, which among other things called for Pyongyang to return to six-party talks aimed at eliminating its nuclear program. It also called on all other U.N. member states to abide by sanctions imposed on the North.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current council president, made clear in a statement that the condemnation was only an initial response, and that more will follow. He said it was too early to give any specifics.

"The members of the Security Council have decided to start work immediately on a Security Council resolution on this matter," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said the 15-member council agreed that work on the new resolution will begin Tuesday.

"What we heard today was swift, clear, unequivocal condemnation and opposition to what occurred," she said. "The United States thinks that this is a grave violation of international law and a threat to regional and international peace and security and therefore the United States will seek a strong resolution with strong measures."

Myanmar's Suu Kyi prepares to testify in court

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was to testify Tuesday in a trial widely expected to end with an extension of her house arrest or a prison term of up to five years.

The charges against the 63-year-old Nobel Peace laureate of illegally harboring an American man—who swam across a lake to enter her residence uninvited—were widely considered a pretext to keep her detained ahead of elections the military government has planned for next year.

Her latest round of house arrest—extended every year since 2003—was supposed to end this week, and a top police official said Tuesday that the military government had considered releasing her on "humanitarian grounds."

But the junta canceled that decision earlier this month when the "unexpected incident of the intrusion of the American happened," Brig. Gen. Myint Thein said.

Suu Kyi has been charged with violating conditions of her house arrest by sheltering John W. Yettaw, 53, at her home for two days, communicating with him and providing him food. Suu Kyi's lawyers have said she did not invite him and asked him to leave, but allowed him to stay when he said he was too ill to leave immediately.

Speaker Pelosi in China, emboldens protesters

SHANGHAI (AP)—U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, long a fierce critic of Beijing, toured China's financial capital on Monday on a visit focused on environmental issues rather than human rights, though her presence emboldened protesters.

Pelosi took a low-key approach as she prepared for meetings in Beijing just days ahead of the 20th anniversary of the 1989 crackdown on the Tiananmen Square democracy protests.

The apparent shift approach dovetails with President Barack Obama's new emphasis on engagement with Beijing, rather than confrontation over its human rights record. Visits by Pelosi and other senior U.S. figures have been aimed at highlighting cooperation between the two countries on a slew of issues.

Still, the leading Democratic lawmaker's reputation as a strong human rights defender galvanized petitioners in Beijing, where several hundreds gathered Monday morning near the capital's South Railway Station to air their grievances. Dozens of police stood guard and most protesters were kept behind police lines.

While many complaints were about individual cases, photos posted on the Chinese-language Web site Boxun.com, a U.S.-hosted Web site banned in China, showed one group of demonstrators holding up a black-and-white cloth banner that said: "Welcome Pelosi. Pay close attention to human rights. SOS."

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP says communist rebels at their weakest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military said Monday it expects to meet the president's deadline to end a decades-long communist insurgency by next year, after beating the rebel force back to fewer than 5,000 fighters. The top brass reported progress in the 120,000-strong military's campaign to eradicate Muslim and al-Qaida-linked militants, but expressed the most optimism about efforts to crush the 40-year-old communist rebellion—targeted as the nation's top security threat. "The communist terrorist movement strength is at its lowest," according to a statement issued after the conference of senior military officials. The military was highly optimistic it would meet a deadline set by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to significantly defeat the Maoists by the time she steps down in June 2010, it said.

Roadside bomb kills 4 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—A roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan killed four civilians while an operation by U.S.-led forces left three people dead and a woman and child wounded on Monday. The bomb struck the civilian's vehicle and also wounded three civilians inside in Zabul province, said Jalani Khan, a provincial police official. He blamed the Taliban for planting the bomb. Separately, U.S.-led troops killed three men and wounded a woman and a child during a raid against a Taliban commander in southern Helmand province Monday, the force said in a statement. It did not say whether the men were armed militants or civilians.

RP tracing 50 people for swine flu

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine health officials are trying to locate at least 50 people who attended a wedding with a Taiwanese woman and her daughter before they tested positive for swine flu. Health Secretary Francisco Duque said Monday the mother and 5-year-old girl went to a wedding in the western Philippine province of Zambales province and got sick after returning to Taiwan last week. He said health workers are trying to trace people who may have been exposed to the pair and have them tested for swine flu. The Philippines so far has confirmed two cases of swine flu. Both have recovered.

Campus Life

A trip to the Guam Science Expo

By VANESSA GRAMLICH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

On May 8th all the winners of the CNMI Islandwide Science Fair went to Guam to represent the CNMI. PSS was kind enough to pay the way for 18 students and several chaperones and coordinators. I went to represent the Life Science category. I think everyone was nervous because Guam has so many more students. I know I was because I kept forgetting my display board. I left it on the plane and in the airport in Guam.

We all stayed at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Guam. After we got there we had to go set up our displays at the University of Guam. I got even more nervous when I saw all the other experiments. I liked one student who was trying to find out if playing different types of music affects the growth of plants. I had heard that talking to your plants can help them grow better. My dad says he thinks that when you talk to them, you notice if they have bugs, or need water. So it's the attention, not the talking, he says. I once read about an experiment where some monks sat around their gardens "directing positive energy" at the plants every day and these gardens grew much better and even tasted better! Who knows? The student reached the conclusion that plants grew better "listening" to classical music, but didn't grow well with hard rock music. Hmmm.

Another interesting project was a fourth grade boy who wanted his dad to stop smoking so he forced cigarette smoke into cotton balls in jars. The smoke left the cotton yellowish-brown. Non-filtered cigarettes were way worse. His dad says he'll stop smoking now. I hope so.

After setting up our projects, we went—you guessed it—shopping! I shopped 'til I dropped.

So the next day, we got up early to go to UOG for the judging. Now I was really nervous. It got worse when my dad got lost and we were almost late. Then came the waiting. And more waiting. And after that we waited some more. The judging was supposed to start at 8am, but I didn't get judged until 10:30am. We couldn't leave the room and all adults, except the judges, had to leave the room. This did not help my nerves.

I was a little disappointed when the three judges finally got to me. My dad and I had gone over and over every question they might ask me. But when they got to me they asked me to just read my project to them and then they moved on to the next student. No questions! I was kind of relieved but I felt like I wasted my time preparing. I think they should ask questions to see if you really know your project and to see if you can add anything else to what the display says. Since I did the project months ago, I had some new information on how to control the terrible ivy gourd vine that is smothering our forests. If we're going to be more self-reliant on Saipan, we'll have to grow more of our own food like the Young Farmers Club at SVES. To do this we're going to have to control that vine! Oh well.

So after they judged me they said we could go but to come back and see if I placed in the top 3 for my division. If you do, you get judged again and you can win a trip to the NASA-sponsored Space Camp. I had mixed feelings about that. Most of me wanted to advance, but part of me was getting tired of this project. I had already been judged and won twice, at SVES and the CNMI science fairs. Besides, I could hear the shopping malls calling me. We ate lunch and went back for the results. I got fifth in my division, so we headed for K-Mart.

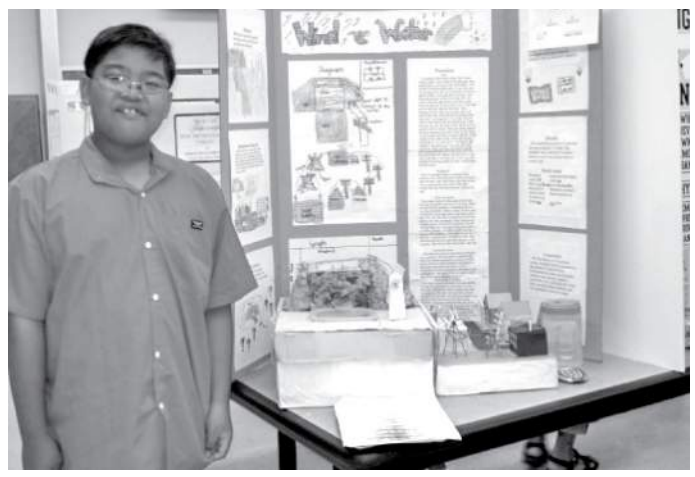
Two of the CNMI students made the finals and both their projects have something to do with self-reliance for the CNMI. Allyssa Arangorin, a ninth-grader from Kagman High, placed first in the Energy, Inventions, Electronics and Photography category. Her project was "A Conventional Way of Filtering Rain Water." She had DEQ check her rain water before and after running it through her special filter. They certified that while you wouldn't want to drink the rain water before her filtering, it was very safe after the filtering. This could really save us money in the CNMI. We wouldn't have to buy drinking water all the time.

Patrick Agustin, a fifth grader from GTC Elementary School, placed second in the Physical Science category. He was trying to find out "which type of generator is more useful, wind or hydro-electric?" His conclusion was that hydro-electric was more useful. While we can't build dams here in the CNMI, we sure could use some windmills to generate energy. Then we wouldn't have to buy and burn oil to get power. Patrick told me the trip to Guam was "lots of fun!"

I agree with Patrick. It was so fun! I want to thank PSS for sponsoring us and promoting science. I think teachers should spend more time teaching us with hands-on science projects. It gets the students more interested and helps us understand more than just reading books and answering questions. We're going to need scientists more than ever in the CNMI.

Vanessa Gramlich is a fifth grade student at the San Vicente Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vanessa Gramlich and her dad have their picture taken at the University of Guam, where Vanessa participated in the Guam Science Fair.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Patrick Agustin, a fifth grade student from GTC Elementary School, participates in the 31st Guam Science Fair and placed 2nd in the Physical Science Level 3rd through 5th grade.

Vanessa Gramlich poses with her science project. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Allyssa Arangorin, a ninth-grader from Kagman High, placed first in the Energy, Inventions, Electronics and Photography category at the Guam Science Fair.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Nicole Deleon Guerrero Benjamin addresses the crowd during Saturday's Northern Marianas College graduation rites. Benjamin graduated with the highest academic honors at NMC, being one of two with summa cum laude awards.

NMC GRADUATION HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez wait to present the leadership awards during Saturday's graduation rites.

LEADERSHIP AWARDEE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Joaquin Ogo Kiyoshi Jr. poses for the *Saipan Tribune* after receiving this year's NMC Student Leadership Award during Saturday's commencement exercise at Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Life & Style

The fame paradox: Pay attention to me, on my terms

By TED ANTHONY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Look at me. Look at my life, my body, my antics, my kids, my home. It's OK—come on in. It's a fair deal: I'm getting famous, you're getting entertained. Everybody's happy. What's the problem?

But ... whoa. Wait. Stop. I didn't sign on for THIS. Why are you looking at me? How dare you look at me! Go away! Can't you leave me and my family in peace? At least until next season?

A monthlong eruption of celebrity anger over unwanted attention—everyone from Miss California USA Carrie Prejean to Brooke Shields to the stars of the reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8"—suggests a new, oddly paradoxical dimension to the way we look at famous people.

In short, Americans who traffic in the commodity that is their lives—Hollywood actors and reality-TV stars alike—aren't at all happy when their carefully calibrated reality bursts out of the cages they have built to contain it.

"It destroys people's lives," Kate Gosselin of "Jon & Kate" said at a recent appearance—a publicity appearance—in Michigan.

Celebrities upset with intrusive coverage are nothing new—Greta Garbo wanted to be left alone as early as the 1930s. And, more recently, stars from Kanye West to Keith Urban to Sarah Jessica Parker have expressed dismay at the media frenzy surrounding their activities and families.

But there's something different afoot today, something cloudier.

Where George Clooney could say a decade ago that his public performances were separate from his personal life, the lines between public and private have blurred. We are awash in an era of oversharing, an age where millions of regular people broadcast prosaic status updates to the world on Twitter and Huggies sponsors "The Potty Project" featuring real families toilet-training their toddlers.

Today, hundreds of everyday Americans bare their workaday existences to millions of their fellow citizens on reality shows, molding themselves into twinkling, if shooting, stars. On the other end of the spectrum, performers like Tori Spelling, Denise Richards and Jessica Simpson shoehorn their carefully edited personal lives into marketable narratives in a calculated bid to keep the buzz going.

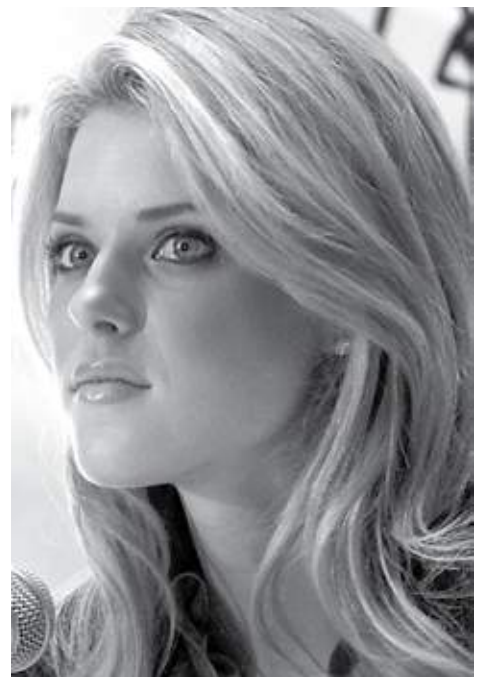
We love it. And they love it. Until the "reality" goes off script and the prying eyes that made them wildly successful suddenly start making them angry. Then you get:

■ Prejean, who competed in the Miss USA pageant in a bikini, condemning the people who circulated topless photos of her after she answered celebrity blogger Perez Hilton's question about marriage by saying it should be between a man and a woman. Prejean said Hilton's question had a "hidden personal agenda" and that she was "punished" for exercising her freedom of speech. Said Prejean: "This should not happen in America."

■ Shields calling it "inexplicable" that a media storm could erupt over her connection to the New York arrest of Kiefer Sutherland this month. "It is frightening and shocking the access people have to everybody else," she said last week. In 2005, Shields appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to discuss deeply personal aspects of her life, including her suicidal thoughts and postpartum depression.

■ A new documentary about 1970s uber-celebrity Farrah Fawcett, dying of cancer, that includes footage of her discussing the supermarket tabloid that she says robbed her of her privacy—the privacy that she herself is surrendering by starring in a highly publicized documentary about the same topic.

AP
In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, left, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8," are shown.



AP
Miss California USA, Carrie Prejean, listens during a news conference in New York, Tuesday May 12, 2009.

AP
In this Aug. 29, 2004 file photo, actress Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami.

Not to say that anyone is wrong here. It's all just gotten a lot more complicated in recent years as personal and public lives merge—something that might be expected in a nation where the notion of privacy as a legal right is only about as old as the movie industry.

"You put yourself out there like this, these things are going to happen," says Lou Manza, who heads the psychology department at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa.

"If you're going to let the cameras into your life, you shouldn't be surprised at what the cameras show," he says. "'I want you to film me'—OK, well do that, and you'll get famous, but that's a double-edged sword. People are going to know all your dirty laundry."

That conundrum seems particularly distilled in the odd case of Jon and Kate Gosselin, stars of the TLC Series "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which documents the ins and outs of the southeastern Pennsylvania couple's family life. Faced with recent magazine reports of infidelity on both sides, the two have lashed out at the media attention to the personal lives they chose to expose, publicly and lucratively, to the world.

"This is certainly not what I envisioned I was signing up for," Kate Gosselin said during the Michigan appearance. "When I see magazines in stores, it's really difficult. It amazes me there is an industry that follows you around and writes stories about you."

In 1961, historian and future Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin wrote about the growing celebrity culture and the "pseudo-event," a happening that is orchestrated for the express purpose of being watched and reported on. Boorstin defined celebrity as "a person who is well known for his well-knownness."

But when Boorstin wrote that, he couldn't have imagined, in his most outlandish speculation, "The Real Housewives of Orange County" or "Who Wants to Marry My Dad?"—part of an industry that farms, then harvests the tapestry of American daily life into drama-infused show business fodder.

In other words: These days, a lot more of our fellow Americans are suddenly, willingly vaulted into fame—or its Bizarro-universe counterpart, notoriety—without the slightest bit of preparation.

"One of the things about reality and the celebrity narrative is that there are always stakes. Because it's real," says Neal Gabler, author of "Life: The Movie—How Entertainment Conquered Reality."

"A celebrity ceases to be a celebrity when the narrative runs out," he says. "But the narrative requires other people to amplify it. That's what the media do. So for someone like Miss California to act as if they have no business doing this, this IS their business."

So forget about life imitating art or vice versa. As Gabler puts it in his book, "Life has become art, so that the two are now indistinguishable from each other."

And in an environment like that, is it any wonder that there's confusion from the amateurs suddenly thrust into the celebrity-industrial complex in ways they never imagined? And that the "Jon & Kate" Web site is brimming with "behind-the-scenes" stories about how they struggle to deal with fame?

"It's hard being on this side of the camera," Jon Gosselin says in one Webisode. "People see your life as episodes ... I mean, we don't have privacy at all. If I go out, people know I go out, and photograph it and do everything they gotta do to do something about it."

Adds Kate Gosselin: "Ready for Season 5—we think."

Amid economic gloom, movies shone at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—It was a bad year for business, a so-so year for celebrities, but a good year for movies at the Cannes Film Festival.

There were fewer dealmakers in the market, fewer stars on the red carpet—but on screen, the selection was one of the strongest in recent years.

Top prize, the Palme d'Or, went late Sunday to Austria's Michael Haneke for "The White Ribbon," an austere study of evil in pre-World War I Germany, while the runner-up was French director Jacques Audiard's gripping prison drama "A Prophet"—both films that drew widespread praise.

"I feel beautiful," said Haneke, whose films include the cryptic "Hidden" and the chilling "Funny Games." "This is the best prize you can get in the cinema, so I'm delighted."

The festival began buoyantly May 13 with Pixar's 3-D animated adventure "Up" before plumbing depths of tragedy, pain and horror.

Danish director Lars von Trier's "Antichrist" gave audiences graphic scenes of genital mutilation—and a talking fox—that drew reactions from respect to revulsion. The jury awarded Charlotte Gainsbourg the best-actress award for her terrifying turn as a grieving mother who descends into madness.

"I'm so proud of having been able to work with Lars von Trier," Gainsbourg said. "I admire his work, and I admire everything he did with this film."

Filipino director Brillante Mendoza took the directing honor for the police corruption drama "Kinatay," which horrified many viewers with its explicit scenes of murder and dismemberment.

AP

Austrian director Michael Haneke, center, poses with the Palme d'Or award for the film 'White Ribbon', with jury members, from left, South Korean director Lee Chang-Dong, French actress and President of the Jury Isabelle Huppert, American actress Robin Wright Penn, and British Screenwriter Hanif Kureishi, at the awards ceremony during the 62nd International film festival in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 24, 2009.

The jury was unapologetic for rewarding divisive films.

"Sometimes good art is hard," said British writer Hanif Kureishi, part of the nine-member jury, although he admitted "Kinatay" was "not something I want to see again."

In a banner year for Asian films, South Korea's Park Chan-wook depicted a priest grappling with a moral dilemma after he is turned into a vampire in the stylish and energetic "Thirst."

The film shared the third-place jury prize with British director Andrea Arnold's gritty teen drama "Fish Tank."

On a lighter note, Britain's Ken Loach made an atypically sunny comedy, the soccer-themed "Looking for Eric," while Spain's Pedro Almodovar offered a color-drenched melodrama about love and loss in "Broken Embraces," starring a radiant Penelope Cruz.

Quentin Tarantino rewrote history with "Inglourious Basterds," which had Brad Pitt leading a band of Jewish Nazi-hunters during World War II.

Two directors defied authorities at home to bring their films to Cannes. China's Lou Ye shot "Spring Fever" secretly because he has been banned from filmmaking by the Chinese government. The film took home Cannes' screenplay prize.

Lou said he hoped that from now on, "I hope all the young filmmakers will be free to make their films."

Iran's Bahman Ghobadi came with "No One Knows About Persian Cats," a lively portrait of Tehran's underground music scene co-scripted by the director's partner, U.S.-Iranian journalist Roxana Saberi.

Several actors gave standout performances, including teenager Katie Jarvis in "Fish Tank"; Ben Whishaw and Abbie Cornish as love-struck John Keats and Fanny Brawne in Jane Campion's "Bright Star"; Tahar Rahim as a quick-learning convict in "A Prophet"; and Christoph Waltz, who won the best-actor prize for his scene-stealing role as a multilingual Nazi officer in "Inglourious Basterds."

Pitt and Angelina Jolie swept into Cannes for the "Basterds" premiere, and Paris Hilton popped up everywhere, but overall there were fewer A-list stars and fewer headline-grabbing studio stunts—although Jim Carrey posed on a lawn of fake snow to promote the forthcoming "A Christmas Carol."

The festival also premiered the final performance of Heath Ledger in Terry Gilliam's "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," which screened to a muted reception outside of the Cannes competition.

Amid the recession, there were fewer buyers this year, although hot titles quickly found distributors, including U.S. deals for "Looking for Eric," "Antichrist," "The White Ribbon" and "A Prophet."

Even in a recession, Cannes remains a mecca for movie-lovers—a place in which, as Tarantino said, "cinema matters. It's important."

"I am not an American filmmaker," Tarantino said. "I make movies for the planet Earth, and Cannes is the place that represents that."

Oxford's 1st female Professor of Poetry resigns

LONDON (AP)—Oxford University's first female Professor of Poetry resigned Monday after acknowledging she had helped publicize charges that her rival for the post had sexually harassed a former student.

Ruth Padel, the great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin, made history at Oxford when she became the first woman to be elected to the position of Professor of Poetry since the job was created in 1708.

The five-year post, which is usually awarded to prominent Oxonians, carries few formal responsibilities but packs a lot of prestige: Previous title holders include W. H. Auden and Seamus Heaney.

But Padel's election was marred by Nobel literature laureate Derek Walcott's decision to withdraw as a candidate from the election after anonymous letters attacking him were sent to Oxford academics.

British newspapers reported that the letters made reference to an allegation of sexual harassment made against the St. Lucia-born poet by a former student in the 1980s.

The papers said the letters included references from the book "The Lecherous Professor: Sexual Harassment on Campus," by Billie Wright Dziech and Linda Weiner, which carries allegations against Walcott made by a Harvard freshman in 1981. At the time of his resignation, Walcott said he had never commented on the claims and would not do so now. But he called the anonymous letter campaign an attempt at character assassination.

Padel came under increasing pressure after The Sunday Times quoted e-mails it said she had sent to two unidentified journalists drawing their attention to the book. In a statement announcing her resignation, Padel acknowledged sending the e-mails. But she said she did not engage in a smear campaign, explaining that she had only passed on information already in the public domain.

"I acted in complete good faith, and would have been happy to lose to Derek, but I can see that people might interpret my actions otherwise," she said in the statement.

Oxford University, which has been embarrassed by the controversy, said it respected Padel's decision and that "a period of reflection may now be in order." A new election is expected sometime before the current Professor of Poetry, Christopher Ricks, steps down from his post at the end of the summer.

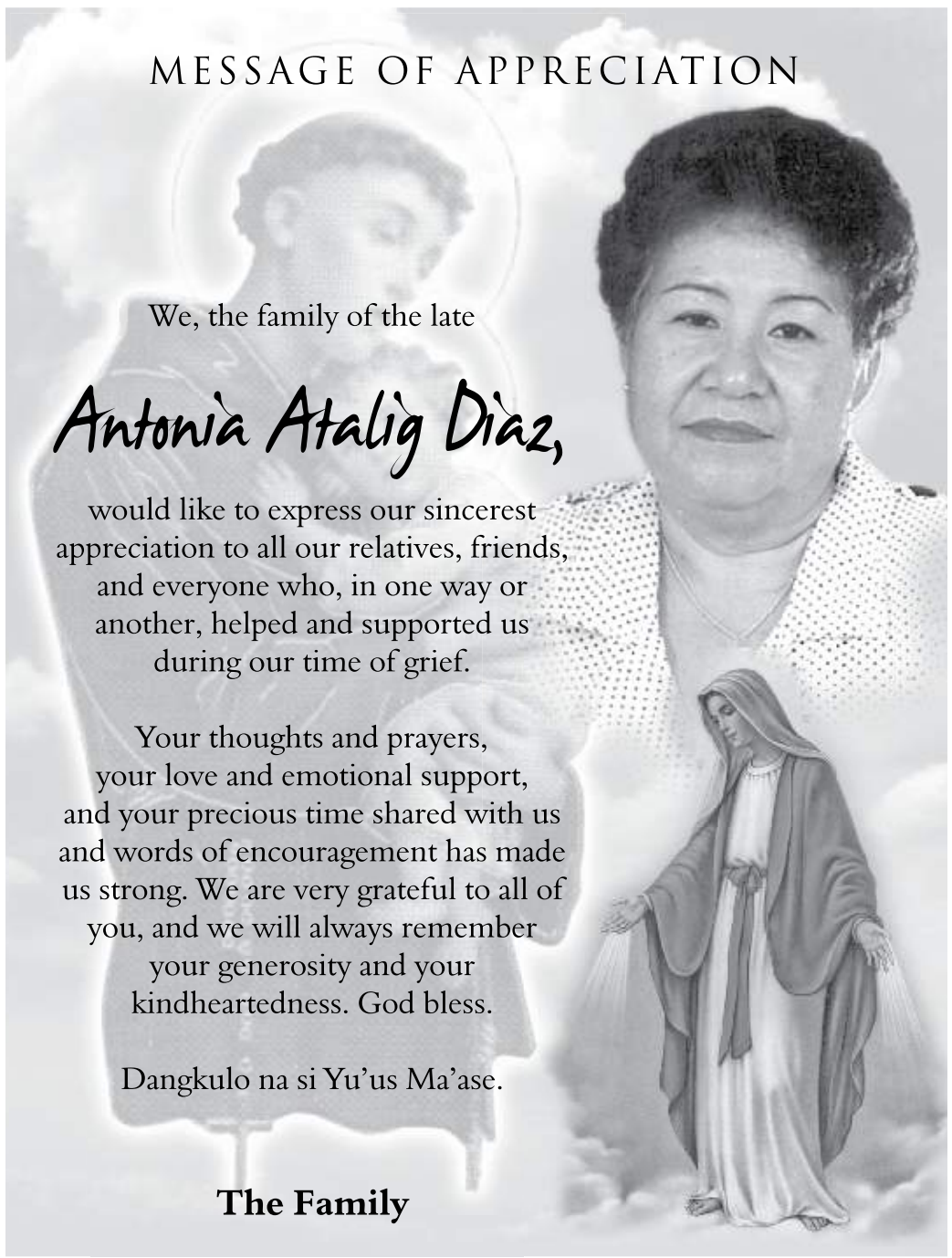
Meg Whitman writing book on values, tenure at eBay

NEW YORK (AP)—Former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman, a presumed candidate for governor of California, is working on a book about the "core values" that helped her build the online commerce giant.

The book, currently untitled, is scheduled to be published by Crown Business in February, just as California starts voting for its next governor. Financial terms were not disclosed, but Whitman will donate all of her earnings to charity.

"Whitman will interweave personal stories and leadership lessons culled from her tenure at eBay and other companies," according to a statement issued Monday by Crown, an imprint of Random House, Inc. "She will offer a blueprint for success in both business and life, identifying core values that make it possible to achieve success without ethical compromise."

Whitman, 52, joined eBay in 1998, when the company had just 30 employees. By the time she stepped down last year, eBay was a multibillion dollar company with more than 15,000 workers. She formed an exploratory committee earlier this year to seek the Republican nomination for governor. Incumbent Arnold Schwarzenegger cannot run again because of term limits.


MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We, the family of the late
Antonia Atalig Diaz,
would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all our relatives, friends, and everyone who, in one way or another, helped and supported us during our time of grief.
Your thoughts and prayers, your love and emotional support, and your precious time shared with us and words of encouragement has made us strong. We are very grateful to all of you, and we will always remember your generosity and your kindheartedness. God bless.
Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family

'Night at the Museum' tops 'Terminator' at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" claimed a box office victory over "Terminator Salvation."

The live-action family comedy starring Ben Stiller won $70 million over the Memorial Day weekend, according to estimates from distributor 20th Century Fox. That put it well ahead of the first "Night at the Museum" movie, which had a $30.4 million three-day opening in December 2006.

"It's blown away our expectations," said Chris Aronson, senior vice president of domestic distribution for 20th Century Fox. "We've nearly doubled the opening of the first 'Night at the Museum.' It's an incredibly strong No. 1 that beats out 'Terminator,' which I think most people thought would win the weekend."

"Terminator Salvation" pulled in $53.8 million over the four-day holiday weekend—plus $13.4 million on opening day Thursday—bringing the post-apocalyptic action film starring Christian Bale and Sam Worthington to a total of $67.2 million since debuting, according to distributor Warner Bros.

With a three-day total of $43 million, that puts the fourth movie in the "Terminator" series behind "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," the last of the franchise's installments to star Arnold Schwarzenegger. The third chapter took in $44 million in its first weekend in 2003.

"I think people expected it to be No. 1 because of that 'Terminator' name alone," said box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com. "If you look at it objectively though, it's a sci-fi action film that played to an older audience. It didn't have the broad based appeal of 'Night at the Museum.'"

AP

In this promotional photo, Ben Stiller is shown in a scene from "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian."

1. "**Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**," $70 million.
2. "**Terminator Salvation**," $53.8 million.
3. "**Star Trek**," $29.4 million.
4. "**Angels & Demons**," $27.7 million.
5. "**Dance Flick**," $13.1 million.
6. "**X-Men Origins: Wolverine**," $10.1 million.
7. "**Ghosts of Girlfriends Past**," $4.8 million.
8. "**Obsessed**," $2.5 million.
9. "**Monsters vs. Aliens**," $1.9 million.
10. "**17 Again**," $1.3 million.

Paramount's "Star Trek" held up well with $29.4 million, warping down to the No. 3 spot but raising its total to $191 million. The sci-fi franchise reboot directed by J.J. Abrams is on the verge of becoming the year's top-grossing movie so far, approaching the $193.5 million gross of DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens."

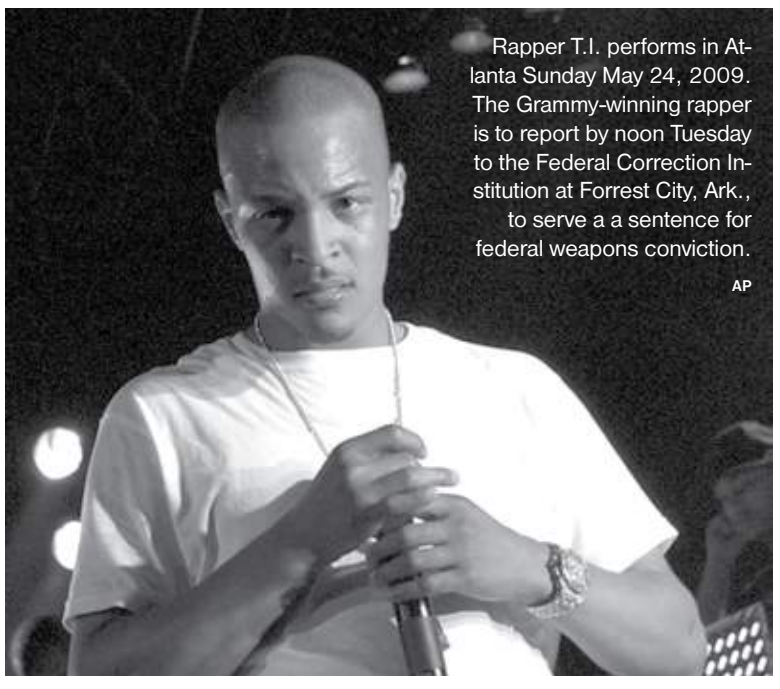
"'Star Trek' is living long and prospering," said Dergarabedian. "It's just one of those movies we knew would hold up. People are enjoying it and talking about it. It's unusual for a summer blockbuster to be propelled by word of mouth, not just the typical marketing push for a big opening weekend. I think it's going to continue to do well week after week."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Sony's "Angels & Demons," fell to fourth place with $27.7 million, lifting its domestic haul to $87.8 million.

On the whole, it was another strong weekend of business at movie theaters, which have been drawing large crowds throughout the recession. Dergarabedian pegs the year-to-date attendance at a nearly 12 percent increase over last year. The top Memorial Day weekend at the box office remains 2007, which featured the third installments of "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Shrek" and "Spider-Man."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

T.I. packs Atlanta arena before heading to prison



Rapper T.I. performs in Atlanta Sunday May 24, 2009. The Grammy-winning rapper is to report by noon Tuesday to the Federal Correction Institution at Forrest City, Ark., to serve a a sentence for federal weapons conviction.

AP

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy-winning rapper T.I. told fans he would stay optimistic when he heads to prison on a federal weapons conviction. The 28-year-old rapper, whose real name is Clifford J. Harris Jr., performed for a packed audience Sunday night in Atlanta's Philips Arena less than two days before he is to begin serving the sentence of a year and a day.

"I'm going to stand up tall, head up high," he said. "Thank you for all of your support."

Many in the packed crowd of about 16,000 people held up encouraging signs, like one reading "T.I. We Will Miss U!"

He must report by noon Tuesday to the Federal Correction Institution at Forrest City, Ark. He was arrested after prosecutors said he tried to buy unregistered machine guns and silencers from undercover federal agents in 2007.

During the concert, T.I. said he hoped that everyone learned from his mistakes. He brought his five children on stage, often holding one of them while he performed "No Matter What"—a single off the almost double-platinum album "Paper Trail."

T.I., who won a Grammy for "Swagga Like Us," also performed all his hits from "What You Know" to "Bring 'Em Out" to his recent chart-topping singles "What Ever You Like" and "Live Your Life." Teenage rapper Soulja Boy also joined him on stage.

"What I need y'all to do is pray for me while I'm gone," he said. "I'll see y'all in 366 days."

Web service Twitter proposes TV competition series

NEW YORK (AP)—Twitter, the Web site that asks what everybody's doing, says it wants to be doing a TV series.

The social-networking service said Monday it has teamed with Reveille productions and Brillstein Entertainment Partners to develop an unscripted series based on the site, which invites 140-character postings from members around the world.

The show would harness Twitter to put players on the trail of celebrities in an interactive, competitive format.

The producers call their proposed series the first to bring the immediacy of Twitter to the TV screen.

"Twitter is transforming the way people communicate, especially celebrities and their fans," said Reveille managing director Howard T. Owens, who expects the new project to "unlock Twitter's potential on TV."

No further details were made available on the show's format or when it might hit the air.

Reveille's scripted entertainment includes "The Office" (NBC), "Ugly Betty" (ABC) and "The Tudors" (Showtime), plus reality programming that includes "The Biggest Loser" and "American Gladiators" (both NBC).

Brillstein Entertainment's credits include "Real Time with Bill Maher" (HBO), "The Sopranos" (HBO), "According to Jim" (ABC) and "NewsRadio" (NBC).

The San Francisco-based Twitter, which was founded in 2007, is one of the Internet's fastest-growing sites. A recent Nielsen report found that unique visitors to Twitter skyrocketed from 475,000 during February 2008 to 7 million a year later.

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***Losing Mum and Pup***, by Christopher Buckley (Twelve: $24.99) The son of William F. and Patricia Buckley tells of life with the high-powered couple and how he coped with their deaths.
2. ***Outliers***, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99) An exploration of the background of high achievers.
3. ***Liberty and Tyranny***, by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: $25) The talk-radio personality's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.
4. ***Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man***, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: $23.99) The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.
5. ***Resilience***, by Elizabeth Edwards (Broadway: $22.95) The wife of the former presidential candidate reflects on facing life's adversities.
6. ***In Praise of Stay-at-Home Moms***, by Laura Schlessinger (Harper: $25.99) Advice and support to mothers choosing to stay at home with their children.
7. ***Always Looking Up***, by Michael J. Fox (Hyperion: $25.99) The actor's emotional and spiritual outlook in his struggle with Parkinson's disease.
8. ***The Girls From Ames***, by Jeffrey Zaslow (Gotham: $26) Eleven childhood friends from Iowa maintain enduring friendships throughout the years.
9. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
10. ***Not Becoming My Mother***, by Ruth Reichl (Penguin Press: $19.95) The food journalist chronicles the journey of a woman she finds she never really knew.

Fiction

1. ***Dead and Gone***, by Charlaine Harris (Ace: $25.95) Sookie Stackhouse finds herself a pawn in a war with a race of unhuman beings.
2. ***The 8th Confession***, by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro (Little, Brown: $27.99) The murders of a priest and high society couple test the limits of the Women's Murder Club.
3. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.
4. ***First Family***, by David Baldacci (Grand Central: $27.99) A child is kidnapped from a birthday party held at Camp David.
5. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.
6. ***Tea Time for the Traditionally Built***, by Alexander McCall Smith (Pantheon: $23.95) At the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, Precious Ramotswe is in need of her own talents to face assorted woes.
7. ***The Last Olympian***, by Rick Riordan (Disney Hyperion: $17.99) Percy Jackson and his army of demigods battle to stop the Lord of Time.
8. ***The Women***, by T.C. Boyle (Viking: $27.95) Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told by four women who loved him.
9. ***Pygmy***, by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday: $24.95) Terrorists disguised as foreign exchange students living with American families plot mass destruction.
10. ***The Help***, by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: $24.95) The lives of a maid, a cook and a college graduate become intertwined in a changing Mississippi town.

Mel Gibson, girlfriend expecting baby

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson shared some baby news on Jay Leno's final week as "Tonight" show host.

Gibson's publicist Alan Nierob said the actor confirmed during the show's taping Monday that his girlfriend, 39-year-old Oksana Grigorieva, is pregnant. A phone message left with an NBC spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

The news comes only six weeks after Gibson's wife filed for divorce.

The 53-year-old Oscar winner has seven children with wife Robyn, but the couple has been separated for almost three years. She cited irreconcilable differences in her April 13 divorce petition to end their marriage of 28 years.

Leno's finale is Friday on the late-night show he's hosted since 1992. He'll start a 10 p.m. show this fall.

In this April 28, 2009 file photo, Oksana Grigorieva and Mel Gibson arrive to the "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" screening on, in Los Angeles.

AP

Bennett, ex-member of band Wilco, dies at 45

URBANA, Ill. (AP)—Jay Bennett, a former member of the band Wilco, has died at age 45, according to his record label.

"We are profoundly saddened to report that our friend died in his sleep ... Jay was a beautiful human being who will be missed," read the posting Sunday on Undertow Music Collective's Web site.

Wilco lead singer Jeff Tweedy said in a statement Monday he was "deeply saddened" by Bennett's death.

Tweedy said Bennett made significant contributions to Wilco's songs and the band's evolution. He said Bennett would be remembered "as a truly unique and gifted human being."

Bennett died at his Urbana home early Sunday, friend and fellow musician Edward Burch told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Champaign County Coroner Duane Northrup said an autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday.

Bennett worked as a sound engineer and played instruments for Wilco from 1994 to 2001.

Earlier this month, Bennett sued Tweedy, claiming he was owed royalties for songs during his seven years and five albums with the group.

In the breach-of-contract lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court, Bennett also claimed that he deserved money from the band's 2002 documentary, "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart."

Police: Mike Tyson's daughter on life support

PHOENIX (AP)—Police in Phoenix say boxer Mike Tyson's 4-year-old daughter is on life support after she was found with her neck on a treadmill cable.

Police Sgt. Andy Hill said the "tragic accident" happened Monday morning at Tyson's home when the girl's 7-year-old brother found her on a treadmill with her neck on a cable attached to the exercise machine.

The boy told the girl's mother from another room. She took the girl off the cable, called 911 and tried to revive her.

Hill said the girl is now in "extremely critical condition" and on life support.

Hill said Mike Tyson was out of town but returned to Phoenix immediately after learning of the accident.

Calls to Tyson's representatives were either not returned or not answered.

Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson is shown in this file photo taken on Monday, Sept. 24, 2007.

AP

'Jon & Kate' spouses say they're angry at media

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality TV co-stars Jon and Kate Gosselin (GOSS'-lin) say they're struggling with their marriage and they're angry at the media intruding in their lives.

The Gosselins and their eight children returned Monday on a new season of the TLC series "Jon & Kate Plus 8." But the daily challenges of a super-size family lately have been overshadowed by reports of infidelity. Both spouses deny cheating.

On the season premiere, Jon says he hates the media storm, while Kate says it kills her to see the tabloid stories attacking them.

But Kate sadly acknowledges she and Jon have grown apart.

Gokey plans to thank Milwaukee for support

MILWAUKEE (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Danny Gokey plans to thank his hometown of Milwaukee at an event that also will raise awareness and money for his charity.

The former church music director is not expected to sing at the free event Tuesday night for contractual reasons. But his church choir, including friend and former "American Idol" contestant Jamar Rogers, do plan to perform.

Gokey also will talk about Sophia's Heart Foundation, which he started in memory of his wife, who died last summer after surgery for a congenital heart defect. A fundraiser is being held earlier at Hilton Milwaukee City Center.

AP

In this March 5, 2009 file photo, "American Idol" finalist Danny Gokey arrives at the American Idol Top 13 Party in Los Angeles.

Wedding party's long delay disturbs guests at reception

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have attended several weddings lately where we have waited up to an hour and a half for the bride and groom to arrive at their own reception. Can you enlighten me because, frankly, I am ...

ONE CONFUSED GUEST,
LEWIS CENTER, OHIO

DEAR CONFUSED: Sometimes there is a delay between the wedding ceremony and the reception so the wedding party can be photographed. Rather than being confused, use your imagination. These days there could be many reasons for a delay -- the limo ran out of gas, someone's zipper stuck, the bride went into labor....

According to Emily Post: "Any delay longer than 30 to 45 minutes becomes excessive, unless (the) invitation included a starting time for the reception. ... If there is likely to be a considerable delay, be sure that guests will be served beverages and hors d'oeuvres while they await your arrival."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I teach at a privately owned after-school center. Recently, my boss asked me if I had any friends who could teach an extra class one day a week. I have a friend, "Cheryl," who I know would be great for the job. She's very smart and has past teaching experience.

I told my boss I would introduce her to Cheryl. What I didn't mention is that Cheryl is transgender. She was not born a biological female. I don't feel it is my place to disclose that to my boss. However, I was shocked when Cheryl said she wouldn't tell, either.

I understand my friend's desire to be recognized as a woman. But I feel that I would be deceiving my boss if neither of us told her. I'm not entirely sure whether my boss, the other teachers and the children's parents would approve of Cheryl. I don't want to be blamed for not being truthful. If Cheryl doesn't reveal that she's transgender, should I?

NERVOUS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NERVOUS: Please do not allow yourself to be distracted by your friend's gender status. The question isn't whether Cheryl was born a woman. It's whether she can be a competent teacher. When all is said and done, what's going on between her ears is far more important than what's under her skirt. Jobs working with children require background checks. It's not your responsibility to be the town crier.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have received an invitation to a graduation party and a note was enclosed. It read:

"If I don't hear from you by the 25th, I will not be able to include you. This invitation is for those addressed, and no one else. Seating is limited. Please do not ask for 'to go' containers, as all the food will be going home with us. This is a very special day for 'Mary' and a lot of planning has gone into it. There may be people you would rather not see or talk to, but please remember it is about 'Mary' that day and no one else. If any of this makes you uncomfortable, please do not feel it necessary to attend."

What do you think of this, Abby?

STUNNED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR STUNNED: It appears this family has many members who are clueless about basic good manners -- and that includes the person who sent the invitation. Obviously, these people have been taken advantage of in the past and are trying to prevent it from happening again. Because you have it in writing that if "any of this" makes you uncomfortable you are free not to attend, I think you should take the person at his or her word and stay home.

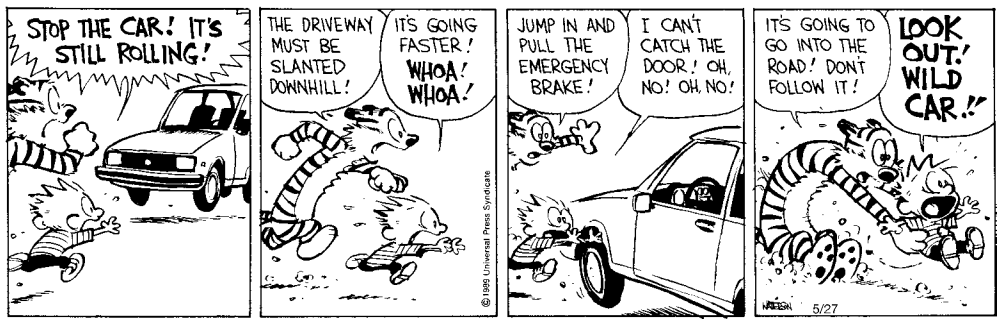
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

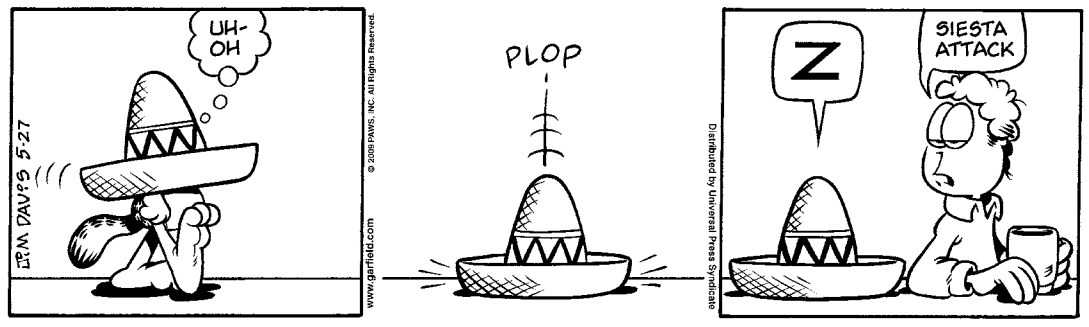
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


STOP THE CAR! IT'S STILL ROLLING!
THE DRIVEWAY MUST BE SLANTED DOWNHILL!
IT'S GOING FASTER! WHOA! WHOA!
© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate
JUMP IN AND PULL THE EMERGENCY BRAKE!
I CAN'T CATCH THE DOOR! OH, NO! OH, NO!
IT'S GOING TO GO INTO THE ROAD! DON'T FOLLOW IT!
LOOK OUT! WILD CAR!!
5/27

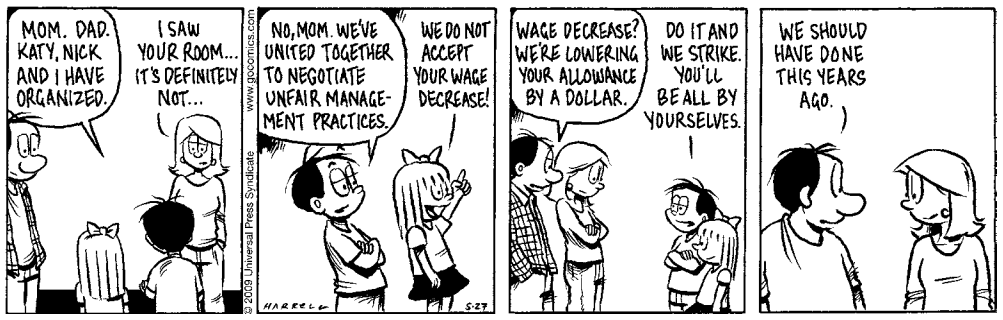
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM. DAD. KATY, NICK AND I HAVE ORGANIZED.
I SAW YOUR ROOM... IT'S DEFINITELY NOT...
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
NO, MOM. WE'VE UNITED TOGETHER TO NEGOTIATE UNFAIR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.
WE DO NOT ACCEPT YOUR WAGE DECREASE!
HARRELL 5-27
WAGE DECREASE? WE'RE LOWERING YOUR ALLOWANCE BY A DOLLAR.
DO IT AND WE STRIKE. YOU'LL BE ALL BY YOURSELVES.
WE SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS YEARS AGO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

JOHN WAYNE'S REALLY SHOWING HIS AGE.
2-27 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
JOHN WAYNE IS DEAD.
IN THAT CASE, HE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD.
Glenn McCoy
5-27-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bushy hairdo
5 "CSI" setting
8 Paraphernalia
12 Laugh-a-minute
13 Altar affirmative
14 "The Amazing —"
15 Solvency source
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Hard and cold
19 Whiteboard accessory
21 Knock
22 Platter
23 Bro or sis
26 Existed
28 Come together
31 Owl's sound
33 Homer's interjection
35 Gloomy
36 Give philanthropically
38 Directory info (Abbr.)
40 Ex, —, zee
41 Mongol tent
43 Chic no more
45 Undeveloped state
47 Boil
51 Sandwich shop
52 Movie about a 1950s scandal
54 Cupid's alias
55 Work with
56 Ripped
57 Small salamander
58 Listener
59 Catches some rays

DOWN
1 Curved lines
2 Decree
3 Got up
4 "None of the above"
5 Frog's perch
6 Hubbub
7 Acknowledged applause
8 Lubricated
9 Submits humbly
10 Teenager's woe
11 Caboose's position
16 Imperfection
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Solution time: 21 mins.

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A	L	T	O	■	C	H	I	■	I	S	L	E
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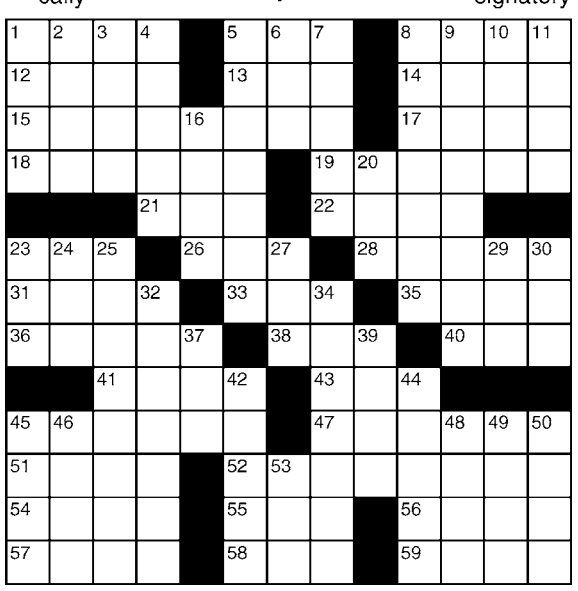
A	D	O	■	C	A	T	■	B	L	U	E	S
■	■	■	W	A	N	■	P	I	E	■	■	■
D	E	F	E	R	■	B	A	N	D	A	N	A
A	R	E	A	■	G	U	Y	■	E	L	O	N
Y	A	N	K	E	E	S	■	H	E	I	S	T
■	■	■	K	I	M	■	B	U	D	■	■	■
F	L	Y	N	N	■	M	A	G	■	B	Y	E
R	O	U	E	■	T	E	N	S	P	E	E	D
A	B	L	E	■	H	A	D	■	R	A	N	G
T	E	E	D	■	E	N	S	■	O	U	S	E

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Fiennes, 39; Todd Bridges, 44; Adam Carolla, 45; Louis Gossett Jr., 73

Happy Birthday: Be smart with your money, donations and friendships. Giving in to demanding friends, children or family members will not be conducive to personal accomplishment. Strive for perfection and achieving the goals that you set. Emotional issues will escalate with someone from your past. Advancement can be yours if you focus on putting your skills to good use. Your numbers are 2, 8, 15, 21, 26, 35, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take charge instead of letting someone else call the shots. You must avoid or silence bullies if you want to stay on top. It's time to cut corners in order to survive. Having the strength and courage to cut back will bring you respect. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Show your human and loving side and you will please the people who mean the most to you. Your focus should be on home and family. Someone you have helped in the past will be there for you now. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be fooled by what others do or say. Nothing is free, so don't allow yourself to be taken advantage of by a fast-talking person. Question anything that is too good to be true. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Someone will disappoint you. You may have to adjust your plans at the last minute if you have given too much responsibility to someone who cannot handle it. Act fast to fill a void that could potentially leave you out in the cold. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have to take care of matters personally if you want to get the results that suit your needs. A love relationship may be confusing you. If something doesn't measure up, investigate what's actually going on. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Time is of the essence. It's important to commit to what you can do and forget about the things that are out of reach. You have no time to waste on people or propositions that lack what you need in your life. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotions will be hard to control and will cause you to make mistakes if you aren't careful. Don't let your need to make peace lead you to give in to someone who just wants to meddle in your affairs. Do things on your own. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A chance to develop something brand new and unique will be yours if you team up with someone who can complement what you have to offer. Start talking partnership and, before you know it, you will be divvying up the profits. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Overindulgence and extravagance will do you in. Be strict and disciplined if you want to come out ahead. Avoid being the one to pay for others. You cannot buy love, acceptance or a free ride. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Memories will play an important role in your life. If you can put your experience to the test, you can come out a winner. A responsibility may have to be altered to suit your needs instead of someone else's. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The past could come back to haunt you. Don't make the same mistake twice. Focus on what you can accomplish now by associating with people who have more in common with you. Someone will lie to impress you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get out and do things with friends or family. A change of scenery will do you good. A new relationship will develop with someone who shares your interests. Serious developments can take place regarding a partnership. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, sympathetic and ready to help whose in need. You put your best efforts into play in order to find a solution that works for everyone.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	8	1	5	9			
	6		2			5		
5				6			2	
3				2			1	
9	7	5	4	8			3	
	4	2	3				8	
							5	
							6	
				3	2	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	5	1	9	3	7	2	6
3	6	9	7	2	5	1	4	8
1	7	2	8	4	6	3	5	9
2	5	7	6	8	4	9	1	3
6	1	3	9	7	2	5	8	4
9	4	8	5	3	1	2	6	7
8	3	6	2	1	9	4	7	5
7	2	4	3	5	8	6	9	1
5	9	1	4	6	7	8	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PATH OF THE JAGUAR **Solution: 5 letters**

C	R	P	C	F	S	E	H	C	T	E	R	T	S	N
A	E	T	O	P	E	O	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W
R	G	N	S	P	A	L	C	M	I	W	S	A	T	A
N	I	L	T	E	U	S	I	I	D	E	R	R	U	N
I	O	P	A	R	R	L	E	N	X	R	E	G	O	D
V	N	A	R	N	A	O	A	O	E	E	E	E	G	E
O	S	N	I	E	R	L	F	T	S	C	M	N	A	R
R	E	T	C	Y	D	U	A	S	I	B	I	T	E	E
E	C	H	A	A	P	A	T	M	E	O	H	I	S	R
V	R	E	P	U	D	R	T	C	E	H	N	N	A	L
I	E	R	E	G	E	P	O	O	O	R	C	A	E	W
V	T	A	X	A	E	R	U	T	R	N	I	T	R	O
R	I	N	M	R	R	E	S	M	E	L	L	C	A	R
U	V	S	U	A	B	Y	Ⓢ	Ⓑ	Ⓤ	Ⓒ	H	T	A	P
S	E	T	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	S	T	A	C	S

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Agoutis, Apex, Areas, Argentina, Bite, Breed, Carnivore, Cats, Central America, Costa Rica, Cubs, Feline, Forest, Foxes, Land, Mexico, Mice, Nocturnal, Panthera, Paraguay, Paseo, Patches, Path, Peru, Population, Predator, Prey, Protect, Prowl, Regions, Secretive, Smell, Spotted, Streams, Stretches, Survive, Swim, Terrain, Trees, Wanderer, Wildlife

Yesterday's Answer: Boombox

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in this section

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of : CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113 D
ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, :
Deceased. :

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of Esteban Rasiang Nogis in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, contaning an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 29, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of May, 2009:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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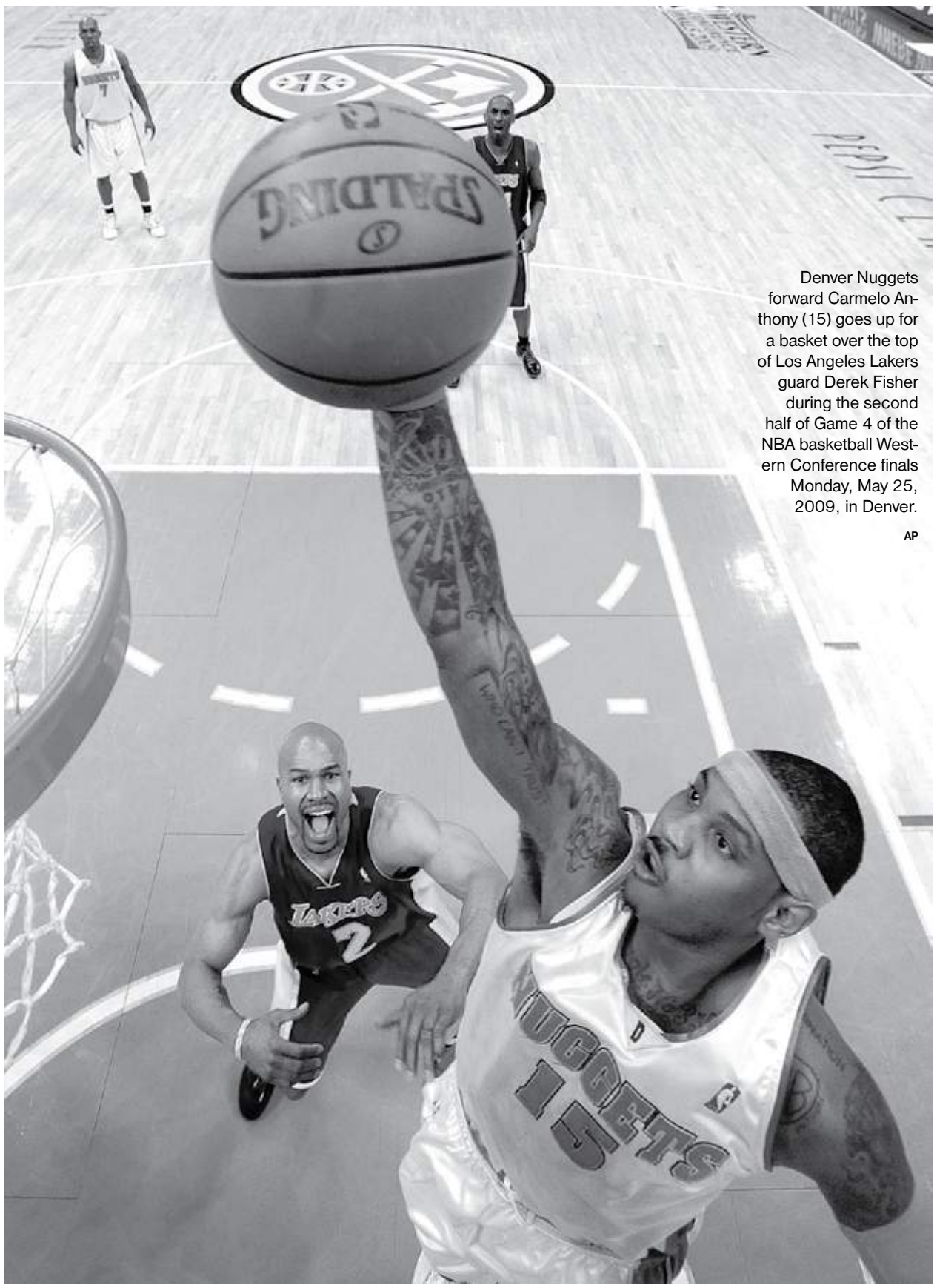
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Nuggets even series against Lakers at 2-2



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony (15) goes up for a basket over the top of Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Monday, May 25, 2009, in Denver.

AP

DENVER (AP)—A dominating effort on the boards and a great performance by the bench helped the Denver Nuggets overcome a below-par effort from an ailing Carmelo Anthony.

The Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Lakers 120-101 on Monday night, evening the Western Conference finals at two games apiece.

Chauncey Billups and J.R. Smith scored 24 points and Kenyon Martin had a double-double as the Nuggets posted their eighth blowout of the postseason but first against Los Angeles following three games that came down to the final seconds.

The Nuggets didn't need to worry about a botched inbounds pass in the closing seconds like the ones that cost them wins in Games 1 and 3, although Kobe Bryant had another monster fourth quarter in a furious attempt to put a stranglehold on the series that shifts to Los Angeles for Game 5 Wednesday night.

Bryant, who is averaging 37 points in the series, scored 34, including 14 in the fourth quarter.

He put a scare into the Nuggets and their fans until Smith hit back-to-back dagger 3-pointers for a 113-96 cushion.

Anthony finished with a hard-fought 15 points, and Martin had 13 points and 15 boards. Nene also had a double double with 14 points and 13 rebounds.

"It just shows we have heart and can play with a man down," Smith said. "We did a lot this year and kept it up."

The game featured four technical fouls and 84 free throws, 49 by Denver.

'Melo's shooting slump continued as he went 3-for-16 and missed his first 10 shots. Making matters worse, he turned his right ankle in the first half. At the break, he needed fluids and had his ankle retaped, then returned with a dogged determination to help the Nuggets however he could to pull even in the series.

Bryant and Pau Gasol (21 points) kept the Lakers within striking distance. The Lakers cut a 16-point deficit to 102-92 on four Bryant free throws with 3:49 left thanks to technicals on Martin and Anthony.

The Nuggets relied on a balanced attack with Anthony ailing—seven players scored in double digits—and while they still weren't very good from the floor (44 percent), they did work the ball around for better looks, attacked the lane more and got to the line. This accomplished exactly what all those misfirings couldn't in Game 3—energize the Pepsi Center crowd.

The Nuggets, who haven't lost back-to-back home games all season, were coming off their first loss in the Mile High City since March 9. They knew they blew a golden opportunity 48 hours earlier by trying for the dagger and misfiring on 22 of 27 3-pointers—and after three of the conversions, they gave back a point with technical free throws, no less.

"So, we were really 2-for-27," Nuggets coach George Karl cracked before tip-off.

This time, they shot 7-for-24 from 3-point range. One of them was Billups' pull-up 3 after a steal by Smith that gave Denver an 83-70 lead with 10 minutes to go.

The Lakers and Nuggets had the Pepsi Center to themselves Monday night after World Wrestling Entertainment moved their Monday Night Raw card to the Staples Center in Los Angeles because of the double booking in Denver that WWE chairman Vince McMahon milked for all it was worth.

The fans saw plenty of gripping and grabbing in this rough-and-tumble series. This game featured 55 fouls.

The Nuggets led 52-45 at halftime even though Anthony had just five points on 1-for-11 shooting, extending his shooting slump to five quarters.

'Melo, who went 4-for-13 in Game 3 after five straight 30-point games, started out ice cold, although some of them were easy put-backs for others.

With Anthony on the bench for several minutes spanning the first and second quarters, the Nuggets stretched their lead from six points to 13, and they stretched it to 39-24 after his return. But he went out briefly after landing awkwardly, and the Lakers quickly trimmed their deficit to single digits.

Anthony finally scored with 1:01 left in the first half when he slammed the ball through the hoop only to come up hobbling downcourt.

Sharapova back at French; Nadal wins 29th straight

PARIS (AP)—Those unmistakable shrieks punctuating point after point on Court 1 at the French Open on Monday trumpeted Maria Sharapova's return to the Grand Slam stage.

There were other ways Sharapova made her presence felt—the big groundstrokes off both wings; the tough-as-nails turnaround after a slow start; the prematch accessories of buttoned-up blue jacket and oversized white purse; the postmatch victory waves and blown kisses.

Sharapova's tennis is not yet back to her lofty standards, as one might expect after shoulder surgery in October and four singles matches in the past 10 months. The 64th-ranked Anastasiya Yakimova of Belarus is not the sort of opponent who would normally trouble a top-of-her-game Sharapova, yet there was trouble Monday.

Still, a win is a win, and Sharapova's first match at a major tournament in nearly a year ended with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Yakimova and a spot in the French Open's second round. It will take more than that performance for Sharapova to erase the uncertainty that comes with such a long layoff.

"This is the first time in my career where I can really say I don't have any expectations," the three-time major champion said. "I don't know how things are going to work out. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, how my shoulder is going to feel."

Because of her time away, Sharapova is ranked 102nd and unseeded at Roland Garros, which might help lower others' expectations, too. A year ago, after all, she was No. 1.

"If I was a mentally weak person or individual," Sharapova said, "I think I wouldn't be here today."

The pressure to produce has not affected Rafael Nadal in the least, and he extended his French Open winning streak to a record 29 matches Monday by beating Marcos Daniel of Brazil 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 in the first round.

Nadal is trying to become the first player to win five titles in a row in Paris, and the man he beat in the past three finals, Roger Federer, also won easily Monday. More noteworthy, perhaps, was Andy Roddick's 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 victory over French wild-card entry Romain Jouan, the American's first victory in the tournament since 2005.

"I'm just glad I finally won a match out there," Roddick said.

The only seeded man to exit was No. 19 Tomas Berdych, but there were more surprises on the women's side, including 116th-ranked American Alexa Glatch's 6-1, 6-1 victory over No. 14 Flavia Pennetta of Italy. No. 17 Patty Schnyder, No. 23 Alisa Kleybanova and No. 26 Anna Chakvetadze all lost. Third-seeded Venus Williams beat Bethanie Mattek in three sets, while No. 1 Dinara Safina shut out Anne Keothavong of Britain 6-0, 6-0.

When they met at the net, according to Safina, Keothavong told her, "At least you could give me one game."

Nadal's accomplishment wasn't exactly heralded with much fanfare. There was no announcement over the loudspeakers, no on-court presentation of a plaque, no wild celebration from the Spaniard. He simply yanked off his yellow head wrap—the one that matched his neon wristbands and accompanied his bright pink shirt—and went to the net to shake Daniel's hand.

"It's better than dress the same color every week, no?" Nadal said.

He and Bjorn Borg had shared the men's mark of 28 consecutive victories at Roland Garros; Nadal now shares the overall tournament mark with Chris Evert. Nadal did have a few wobbles, getting broken while serving for the first set at 5-4 and again to fall behind 3-1 in the second.

If there never appeared to be real doubt about the outcome of that encounter, Sharapova's deficit against Yakimova was more daunting.

"I started pretty lousy," Sharapova said.

She hit four double-faults in her first two service games and was broken three times in the opening set. She also had 15 unforced errors in that set—more than the rest of the way.

"She was probably a little nervous," said Yakimova, who is 4-12 in Grand Slam play. "And she hasn't had much practice, so she was missing more than usual."

But Sharapova won 16 of the first 20 points in the second set and, with Yakimova slowed by a bad back, pretty much controlled things from there.

Sharapova hadn't played a match at a major since June 26, 2008, when she was upset 6-2, 6-4 in Wimbledon's second round by 154th-ranked Alla Kudryavtseva. Go further back, to June 3, and Sharapova lost in the fourth round to Safina at the French Open.

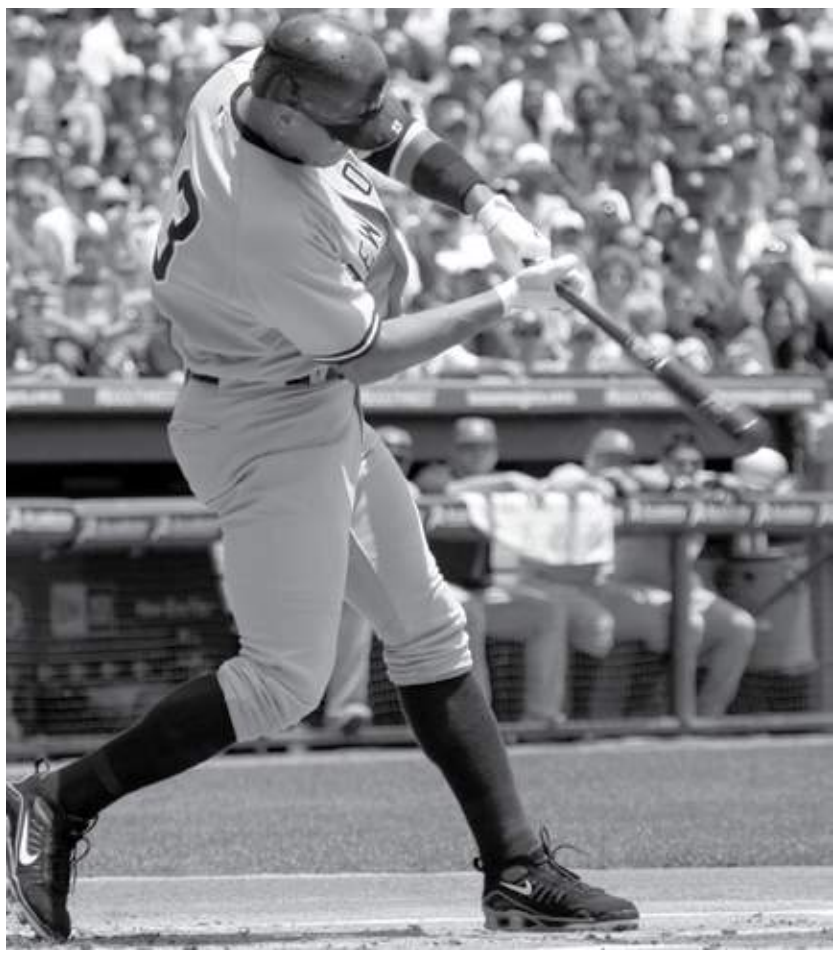
On Monday, she was back at Roland Garros, playing the game that made her rich and famous before she turned 20.

"I love being here, and there's no better feeling than waving to the crowd after you've won," Sharapova said. "From the hour you're in the locker room and putting your dress on, to the 15 minutes before your match, where you're warming up and you're pumping yourself up and you're going to get out there in front of 20,000 people—you miss that. I certainly missed it."

A-Rod's perfect response in Texas: 5-for-5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Alex Rodriguez had a perfect response for the hearty boos, matching a career high with five hits to lead the New York Yankees to an 11-1 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday.

Rodriguez also drove in four runs in his first game in Texas since admitting earlier this year that he used steroids while playing for the Rangers from 2001-03. Phil Hughes(notes) tossed eight shutout innings for New York, which has won 11 of 13.



AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez gets a piece of the ball for a single during the first inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Monday.

Red Sox 6, Twins 5

At Minneapolis, Jason Bay and Kevin Youkilis hit two-run doubles, and the Boston Red Sox started a 10-game road trip with a victory.

Jonathan Papelbon survived a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth by pinch-hitter Joe Mauer to get his 12th save.

Tigers 13, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Mo., Justin Verlander held slumping Kansas City to five hits through seven scoreless innings and Miguel Cabrera had four of Detroit's season-high 19 hits.

Cabrera drove in three runs for the Tigers, who won for the 23rd time in their last 31 outings at Kauffman Stadium and increased their lead over Kansas City to four games in the AL Central. Gerald Laird, Brandon Inge and Clete Thomas had two RBIs apiece.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 1

At Baltimore, Jeremy Guthrie allowed one run in seven innings, Aubrey Huff had two RBIs and Baltimore extended Toronto's losing streak to seven.

Brian Roberts had two hits and scored twice for the Orioles, who were 3-14 against Toronto since June 7, 2008.

Athletics 6, Mariners 1

At Oakland, Calif., Travis Buck homered and scored three runs, and Adam Kennedy extended his torrid start for Oakland with a career high-tying four hits.

Brett Anderson pitched six strong innings for his second major league win with the last-place A's, who beat Seattle for just the second time in seven meetings this season.

Indians 11, Rays 10

At Cleveland, Victor Martinez lined a two-out, two-run single into center field, capping a seven-run ninth inning for the Indians, who trailed by 10 runs in the fourth.

The hit off Jason Isringhausen (0-1) snapped an 0-for-18 streak by Martinez and ruined the much-awaited season debut of Tampa Bay starter David Price. The left-hander was staked to a 10-0 lead but ran his pitch count up and lasted only 3 1-3 innings.

White Sox 17,Angels 3

At Anaheim, Calif., Jim Thome surpassed Mike Schmidt for 13th place on the career home run list, Jermaine Dye and Paul Konerko also went deep in the rout.

John Danks (4-3) breezed to the victory after Thome helped stake the left-hander to an 11-3 lead in the third with his 549th home run and eighth this season. The five-time All-Star also had an RBI single during Chicago's 24-hit attack, which included four each by Scott Podsednik and Alexei Ramirez.

Brewers 1, Cardinals 0

At Milwaukee, Bill Hall snapped a 1-for-28 slump with a two-out, RBI single in the 10th inning to lift the Milwaukee Brewers to victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Cardinals ace Chris Carpenter took a perfect game into the seventh inning, and the Brewers' Yovani Gallardo carried a no-hitter into the sixth before each finished allowing just two hits over eight innings.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 7, 10 innings

At Phoenix, Chase Headley hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning as San Diego rallied from a six-run deficit to win its 10th straight game. San Diego, which snapped an 11-game road losing streak, trailed 7-1 entering the eighth inning, but scored five in the eighth, one in the ninth and two in the 10th.

Dodgers 16, Rockies 6

At Denver, the Dodgers used two big innings—a seven-run fourth and an eight-run seventh—to rout the Rockies.

James Loney, Russell Martin, Juan Castro and Matt Kemp had three hits each and Juan Pierre had a bases-loaded triple for the Dodgers, who matched their season high with 19 hits.

Reds 8, Astros 5

At Cincinnati, Jonny Gomes had three RBIs and the Reds made the most of three Houston errors, scoring eight unearned runs.

Gomes had three hits for the Reds, who have won three of four. Jerry Hairston Jr.(notes), Ramon Hernandez, Adam Rosales and starter Aaron Harang (5-4) had two hits apiece.

Giants 8, Braves 2

At San Francisco, last-minute lineup addition Travis Ishikawa had a three-run homer among his career-high four hits, and Jonathan Sanchez won for the first time in more than a month.

Edgar Renteria hit a two-run double three batters after Emmanuel Burriss broke up a scoreless game with a fifth-inning RBI single. The Giants, who had lost five of six and nine of 11, began a six-game homestand on a positive note following a frustrating 1-5 trip in which all the losses were by one run.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Wes Helms homered and drove in four runs for the Marlins.

Chris Volstad (4-3) allowed three runs and six hits. Matt Lindstrom finished for his ninth save in 11 chances.

Ryan Howard hit a pair of homers for the NL East-leading Phillies, while Jamie Moyer failed in his fifth try to earn his 250th win.

Mets 5, Nationals 2

At New York, Gary Sheffield hit a disputed, tiebreaking three-run homer in the sixth inning that was upheld by a video review.

John Maine (4-3) limited the hapless Nationals to one run and four hits in six innings. New York's bullpen held on despite shaky performances by Bobby Parnell, J.J. Putz and Francisco Rodriguez, who returned from back spasms to get his 13th save in 13 chances.

Prosecutor: Jets' Rhodes not target in rape case

NEW YORK (AP)—New Jersey police are investigating a woman's claim that she was raped by two men at the home of Jets safety Kerry Rhodes, although the Morris County prosecutor said the player is not a suspect in the case.

The New York Post reported in Monday editions that the woman, a Canadian tourist, said she met Rhodes and another man at a Manhattan nightclub before being taken to a home in Morristown, N.J., where Rhodes owns a town house, according to authorities.

Morris County prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi issued a statement Monday, saying "Mr. Rhodes is not the target of any criminal investigation. Rumors and media reports to the contrary are untrue."

Rhodes issued a statement earlier through a team spokesman.

"I briefly talked with police on Saturday regarding an incident that allegedly took place at my home," Rhodes said. "The police confirmed to me that I am not the subject of this allegation."

In a statement Monday night, the Jets reiterated that Rhodes isn't a target in the investigation and referred further questions to the prosecutor's office.

Rhodes, who was drafted out of Louisville in 2005, signed a $33 million, five-year contract extension with the Jets last year. He has 12 interceptions and nine sacks in 64 games over four seasons, and is expected to be a major playmaker in new coach Rex Ryan's defense.

Pirates 10, Cubs 8

At Chicago, Freddy Sanchez had Pittsburgh's first six-hit game in 19 years, scored four runs, and drove in three, sending Chicago to its eighth straight loss.

Despite scoring three more runs than they did on the entire winless six-game road trip that ended Sunday, the Cubs fell to 21-22 and were booed repeatedly by their fans.

John Daly to return to PGA Tour in Memphis

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

John Daly's suspension on the PGA Tour is over, and the two-time major champion plans to return in three weeks for the St. Jude Championship and U.S. Open qualifying.

Daly was suspended for six months in November after a series of off-course incidents that brought negative publicity, the most recent a photo of him in an orange jail suit with his eyes half-closed after being locked up overnight in North Carolina to get sober.

He has played eight times overseas during his suspension, including a month in Europe, where he tied for second in the Italian Open.

"I know I'll be ready to play," Daly said in a telephone interview from Wentworth, where he tied for 72nd at the BMW PGA Championship. "I'm not going to be (half-trying) like I've done in the past. I know I may not play the tour if something good doesn't happen. It's making me work harder."

Daly hasn't won on the PGA Tour since the Buick Invitational five years ago, and he has not kept his card the last two years, having to rely on sponsor exemptions and tournaments where he won, such as the British Open and PGA Championship.

He said he has received a sponsor's exemption to the St. Jude Championship on June 11-14 in Memphis, Tenn., near his home. Daly said he also has received an exemption from the Buick Open the last week in July, and he is hopeful of others.

PGA Tour spokesman Ty Votaw said the tour does not comment on player discipline; it never confirmed that Daly was suspended, and now cannot confirm that a suspension has been lifted.

Daly told The Associated Press over the Christmas holidays that he had been suspended for the second time in his career, and he said he found out two weeks ago while playing in Ireland that he had been reinstated.

"I don't really feel I deserved to be suspended," Daly said. "But I'm not going to dwell on it. I'm going to turn it into a positive. I'm getting my life back in order and I'm more organized."

His agent at SFX Sports, Bud Martin, said Daly, 43, is not taking as many short cuts as he tries to get his game in order.

"He's been working on his game, working on trying to get his life together off the course," Martin said Monday. He's had some signs of some good golf in Europe, and from talking to him on the telephone, I would say he sounds as good and as optimistic and is in as good of a place as I heard from him in 20 years.

"I don't want to curse him, but I'm cautiously optimistic."

Daly at least will look different than his last start on the PGA Tour, when he missed the cut at Las Vegas in October.

He had lap-band surgery on his stomach in February to restrict his eating, and says he already has lost 50 pounds in three months.

"What I'm eating in one week is what I used to eat in one day," he said of his 1,200-calorie per day intake. He also says he has not been drinking as much as before, and only sips when he does.

He signed a clothing deal with Sonoma, Calif.-based Loudmouth Golf, wearing trousers with wild and colorful prints, some of them looking like pajamas. Daly wore hot pink Sunday at Wentworth to pay tribute to Phil Mickelson's wife being diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I love the reaction I've gotten from the media and the fans in the U.K.," he said. "It's been a lot of fun."

Uncertain how many times he can play on the PGA Tour, he said he will continue to focus on "The Race to Dubai" on the European Tour. Daly already has played six times on the European Tour and is 94th in the standings. The top 70 are eligible for the $10 million Dubai World Championship.

"I'm enjoying it over here," he said. "My big concern is the Race to Dubai. I'm not sure if I can get in 15 (U.S.) tour events."

Daly said he has asked for exemptions to just about every PGA Tour event, although he will need to play at least three more times on the European Tour to be eligible for Dubai.

Asked if he would still be welcome on the PGA Tour, Daly said, "I haven't done anything to hurt any of the tournaments."

PTC outlasts Fiesta Resort in double OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Trading Co. edged Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in double overtime, eking out a 96-89 victory in their game in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan

Sheldon Taisacan drilled eight points in the first overtime, while Frank Sarmiento made five in the second extension period to end the more than three-hour game in favor of PTC.

PTC entered the win column after losing its first game to MBI, 72-75, while Fiesta had its two-game win run snapped, dropping the team to a 2-2 record.

In the first game, Advanced X-Terminators moved up to solo second place with its 2-1 slate after slipping past MBI, 74-71.

Fiesta had several chances at gaining its third straight victory, but free throw woes and end-game missed jumpers allowed PTC to steal the win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PTC's Charles Cepeda, center, battles Fiesta's Jon March Ong, left, and Jason Licop for the loose ball during their game in the Shirley's caging Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Jon March Ong failed to give himself a birthday gift when he missed two charities in regulation that could have won the game for Fiesta. Ong muffed two more free throws in the last 22 seconds of the first overtime. Edgar Garcia, who had been making short jumpers in regulation, collared the offensive rebound after Ong's miss, but the former's jumper rattled out. Fiesta had another chance to nail he game-winning basket with Ferdie Dela Torre grabbing the rebound and pulled up for a right baseline jumper, but the buzzer-beating attempt also missed.

PTC and Fiesta had a seesaw battle in the first overtime with Taisacan keeping the former afloat with his surprise baskets. Taisacan's shots were mostly easy ones, as Fiesta was too complacent on defense against the PTC second stringer.

Sarmiento opened the second overtime with a 3-pointer and went on to hit 2-for-4 from the foul line, while Erlan Lansang, Taisacan, and Jojo Garon added three points each to finally end the exhausting match.

Lansang paced PTC with 29 points, while Garon chipped in 24 points and went 6-for-8 from the foul line in the two extension periods. Sarmiento and Taisacan finished with 15 and 14 markers, respectively.

Chris Mojar led Fiesta with 19 points, while Jason Licop added 17. Ong contributed 15, De La Torre had 14, and Garcia and Jimmy Salazar tallied 10 apiece.

First Game

Advanced 74 – Ritual 21, Olaitiman 15, Daprosa 9, Apostol 8, Luna 3, Libres 2, Adlawan 2, Relata, Lontocs 2.

MBI 71 – Barbo 27, Alvarez 17, Cabrera 7, Achas 7, Sese 6, Trajano 5, Cordero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16 40-29, 58-53, 74-71.

Second Game

PTC 96 – Lansang 29, Garon 24, Sarmiento 15, Taisacan 14, Obnimaga 7, Cepeda 4, Babauta 2, Reyes 2, Maglaya 2.

Fiesta 89 – Mojar 19, Licop 17, Ong 15, De la Torre 14, Garcia 10, Salazar 10, Moran 6.

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 32-35, 45-55, 70-70, 83-83 (1OT), 96-89 (2OT).

ERRATUM

Aside from being the defending champions, Scott Russell and Peter Houk also finished second in the team competition of the 3rd Annual Spearfishing Tournament held last May 6. Felix Sasamoto also finished fourth and not third in the individual event, which was erroneously reported in the *Saipan's Tribune*'s sports page photo spread yesterday, May 26. Third place actually belonged to Russell. Our apologies.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

the Guam tournament.

Kimura recorded two new marks in the boys' 11 to 12 age group in the dual meet, namely the 800m freestyle and 200m breaststroke events. Staal, who moved up to the 15 to 16 division, set a new record in the 50m backstroke.

Ryosei eclipsed the 30-year record in the 100m and 200m freestyle swims, and the 100m breaststroke event in the 8-and-under age group. Hiroto crushed another 30-year record in the 50m freestyle in the same age group, while older brother, Kaito, posted a new mark in the 200m individual medley in the 9 to 10 age group.

These five outstanding swimmers and the rest of Tsunami Saipan tankers will leave for Guam Friday morning. The tournament will start Friday afternoon and will run until Saturday. Tsunami Saipan bets will be back on Saipan Sunday night.

Coach Kimura said besides the 14 swimmers, a couple more Tsunami Saipan bets met the qualifying time for the Guam tournament, but they could not make the trip due to problems on travel documents. Next year, Kimura is hoping more Tsunami Saipan swimmers can participate in the two-day tournament to move their level of competitiveness one or two notches

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

Oshima-Berger, for her part, finished the short run in 20:34 to top the women's division with Dawn Hammermeister and Suzy Kindell coming second and third with their respective times of 25:15 and 25:55.

The Top 3 in the Run 4 Ron took home an assortment of in-kind prizes that included lunch buffet gift certificates, gift bags, and energy drinks from the event's generous sponsors.

Villafria said a total of 71 participants signed up and paid the $15 entry fee for the event. Not all, however, opted to take part in the run and only a little over 40 competed in the early morning jaunt around the American Memorial Park.

Run 4 Ron II started at the AMP amphitheater and had runners proceed to the Micro Beach pavilion before going right toward the old Puerto Rico dumpsite and back.

Proceeds from Run 4 Ron II will help defray Villaria's expenses in taking part in the 2009 Fuji Mountain Race, or Fuji Tozan Race.

Villafria took part in the 2008 edition of the race in July 25, 2009, and finished the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six-kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria was one of only 6,000 participants that have been pre-screened to take part in the 2009 edition of the Fuji Mountain Race.

Businesses and individuals who handsomely donated to Villafria's Mt. Fuji quest, include Salon de Manila, DFS Galleria, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, LBT Appraisal, Auto Glass Pro, Fomacon Liner, GEC Pawnshop, Jazy Sportswear, Island Apparel, Coco Restaurant, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Custom Construction, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Bike Pro, MARPAC (Michellob), Traders Insurance, Saipan Shopping, Godfather's Bar, Sherwin Williams, 888 Handyman Services, Western Union, Marianas Visitors Authority, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa, NRG-Shot (Distributed by Car Corp), Triple J, Bank Pacific, Steven Pixley, Susan Espanillo, Erwin Aquino, Bobby Mandapat, and John Ilao.

SHELL

From Page 28

Boyer said Shell will also be giving free gas to help with the tournament's transportation needs.

"We're coming in as a gold-level sponsor but right now what Shell is attempting to do is bump that up a little bit by offering some support with regards to the tourney's transportation needs. We would supply the fuel, per Shell's cost," he said.

Michael A. White thanked Boyer in behalf of BANMI and said the monetary and in-kind donations will go a long way in making the tournament a success.

"Shell's a household name across the Pacific. It's a great product and they have good people. We're very conscious of their continued support to the sporting community here in the Northern Marianas and we're very proud and very happy to have them as a sponsor in our tournament," he said.

Boyer said sponsoring an event like the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament is a rare opportunity for companies like Shell.

"It is an exciting option for us because it is the first time we will be hosting this. Anytime that Saipan has the ability to host something of this magnitude it's a great thing. A company such as ours would love to be involved, which is why we are supporting this very much," he said.

The BANMI official, meanwhile, said Shell's offer to shoulder the cost of gas for the tournament's transportation requirements shows how much the company is bending backwards to help BANMI's and FIBA's needs.

"Transportation is one of our bigger costs and we hope they can help with the cost of the busses that we'll have to procure to get athletes back and forth."

He also took the opportunity to invite the local community to come to the Marianas High School Gymnasium and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to watch the tournament next month.

"We're looking at teams from Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guam, and us and we're expecting a great tournament. That's men's and women's. We have four gold sponsors and we're pleased the way the community has turned out to support this event."

The addition of Shell brings to six the number of sponsors for the tournament. It joins gold sponsors DFS Galleria Saipan, Joeten, IT&E, and Tan Holdings. McDonald's Saipan earlier donated $2,000 for the tourney.

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will run from June 20 to 28 and BANMI said additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact BANMI president Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or Michael A. White at 234-6547.

3 TEAMS

From Page 28

sion III with Pink Buns debuting tonight against Rollers.

Games in the UBA summer caging are played every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Two matches will be played on weekdays, while three games are set for Saturday. Division I games will be played first at 6pm, followed by either Division II or III matches at 7:30pm.

Divisions I and II have a round-robin format in the regular season with the Top 4 teams moving to the playoffs. The championship showdown will be a best-of-three affair.

A double round-robin format will be in effect in Division III with the top finisher getting a bye in the playoffs. The last two placers will then duel in the first round of the playoffs for the right to face the No. 1 seeded squad in a best-of-three title series.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	18	.600	-
New York	26	19	.578	1
Toronto	27	21	.563	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	23	24	.489	5
Baltimore	19	26	.422	8

Central Division

Detroit	25	18	.581	-
Kansas City	22	23	.489	4
Minnesota	22	24	.478	4 1/2
Chicago	20	23	.465	5
Cleveland	18	28	.391	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	26	18	.591	-
Los Angeles	23	21	.523	3
Seattle	20	25	.444	6 1/2
Oakland	17	25	.405	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	24	19	.558	-
New York	24	20	.545	1/2
Atlanta	23	21	.523	1 1/2
Florida	21	25	.457	4 1/2
Washington	13	31	.295	11 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	27	18	.600	-
St. Louis	26	19	.578	1
Cincinnati	24	20	.545	2 1/2
Chicago	21	22	.488	5
Pittsburgh	21	24	.467	6
Houston	18	25	.419	8

West Division

Los Angeles	31	15	.674	-
San Diego	23	22	.511	7 1/2
San Francisco	21	23	.477	9
Arizona	19	26	.422	11 1/2
Colorado	18	26	.409	12

Yesterday' sGames

Cincinnati 8, Houston 5
Milwaukee 1, St. Louis 0, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 16, Colorado 6
San Diego 9, Arizona 7, 10 innings
San Francisco 8, Atlanta 2
Florida 5, Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 5, Washington 2
Pittsburgh 10, Chicago Cubs 8
Baltimore 4, Toronto 1
N.Y. Yankees 11, Texas 1
Boston 6, Minnesota 5
Detroit 13, Kansas City 1
Oakland 6, Seattle 1
Cleveland 11, Tampa Bay 10
Chicago White Sox 17, L.A. Angels 3

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

G4S	3	0
Advanced	2	1
Fiesta	2	2
PTC	1	1
MBI	1	2
Shirley's	0	3

2009 HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ahn Jin, second left, won his debut in the Championship Flight of the 8th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point course. Also in the photo are Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa, left, a HANMI member, and awards ceremony host Cathy Anderson.

Championship Flight runner-up Jeff Taylor, right, poses with Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

Ladies Flight runner-up Aya Matsumoto poses for the camera.

Ladies Flight champion Sherlyn Jones is joined by HANMI representatives at the stage during the awards ceremony.

Yuko Togawa proudly shows the third place trophy and cash prize she won in the Ladies Flight.

Seniors Flight champion Edward Manibusan is flanked by HANMI representatives.

Seniors Flight third placer Nick Sablan is all smiles after he received a trophy and cash prize.

Leina Kim, who decided not to play in the Ladies Flight, was runner-up in the B Flight.

Championship Flight third placer Adam Hardwicke, center, poses with HANMI representatives.

C Flight top winner Jesse Atalig.

Nuggets even series against Lakers at 2-2

A dominating effort on the boards and a great performance by the bench helped the Denver Nuggets overcome a below-par effort from an ailing Carmelo Anthony.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

PTC outlasts Fiesta Resort in double OT

Pacific Trading Co. edged Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in double overtime, eking out a 96-89 victory in their game in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan 26

Tsunami Saipan eyes medals, records in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will send 14 swimmers in Guam to compete in the 2009 Guam Championships this weekend at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Representing Tsunami Saipan in the weekend tournament are Ryosei and Kosei Toda, Hiroto and Kaito Yanai, Takumi Sugie, Ashley and Marystar Welch, Angel De Jesus, Kaisei Toda, Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, and Kai Staal.

Joining the team in Guam is Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, who is confident his wards can bring home a lot of medals from the two-day meet and break several records.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers, seen here taking time out from their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi to pose for a group photo, will be leaving for Guam this weekend to compete in a two-day tournament.

"I expect Tsunami Saipan swimmers to win more than 50 medals and set several new records," Kimura said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers have been preparing for the Guam tournament for the past several months. Besides their daily training sessions at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, Tsunami Saipan tankers also had a warm-up event for the Guam championship last month with Hiro's wards battling Saipan Swim Club swimmers in a dual meet.

Ryosei, Hiroto, Kaito, Kensuke, and Staal shattered several CNMI age group marks in the Tsunami Saipan-SSC dual meet and these record-setting performances will be a big boost in their bids for breaking more records in

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

Kabiriel, Berger top Run 4 Ron II

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger won early Sunday morning's Run 4 Ron II, a fundraiser for fellow runner Ronald Villafria's trip to the Fuji Tozan Race in July.

Kabiriel, who likes to call himself the Road Runner Bunny, completed the 5-kilometer course in a time of 18:54, tops overall. He was followed by Tom Linden and Caesar Danao who checked in at 19:08 and 20:01, respectively.

Kabiriel said he hardly broke into a sweat in taking the victory.

"Ron is my friend and that's why I came out to support him for his race in Japan. I also need to train for Australia set for July. Today was a good run. I thought I was just going to go out and do an easy run. I thought somebody could just take the win. But nobody wanted to go so I just went to get the win. It was just an easy win for me," he said.

See KABIRIEL on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger topped early Sunday morning's Run 4 Ron II fundraiser.

Shell Marianas is latest FIBA tourney gold sponsor

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Shell Marianas became the fourth gold sponsor of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament after agreeing to donate $5,000 for the event set for next month.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White and FIBA international referee Gabriel White visited Shell area manager Jeff Boyer yesterday to receive the check at the company's office in Puerto Rico.

Aside from the $5,000 sponsorship,

See SHELL on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White receives Shell Marianas' $5,000 check donation for next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament from the company's area manager Jeff Boyer at Shell's Puerto Rico office. Looking on is FIBA international referee Gabriel White.

3 teams win debuts in UBA youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 UBA Summer Youth Basketball League kicked off over the weekend at the Garapan Basketball Court with three teams starting their campaign on a winning note.

In the curtain raiser last Friday, the Sixers whipped Rollers B, 91-47, in Division I, which is for 15-and-under players. Completing the double-header in the opening day of the youth league was a game in Division II (17-and-under), which saw Ayuyus edging the Sixers, 93-83.

Last Saturday, Division II (20-and-under) competition began with The Set Rollers thumping Kagman Sparks, 49-43.

The opening game of the youth league, organized by Unified Basketball Association, had Roxanne Duenas and Nicko Salem teaming up in Sixers' demolition of Rollers B.

Duenas exploded for 29 points, while Salem chipped in 23.

Duenas and Salem found their mark early, as they traded baskets in the first half to give the Sixers a comfortable 34-18 halftime lead. They picked up where they left off in the second half to lift the Sixers to a rousing debut.

Three other teams are entered in Division I, namely the Junior Sonics, Sonics, and Rollers A.

In Division II, the Ayuyus drew 32 big points from Jessie Brel to outclass the Sixers. Three other Ayuyus finished in double figures in their first game in the youth league. Tom Pangelinan added 18, Dominic Reyes tallied 11, and Jester Kaipat contributed 10.

Joe Ada led the Sixers' losing cause with his game-high 48 markers.

Joining the Ayuyus and Sixers in Division II are Lil' Saints, Sonics, and Rollers.

In Division III, The Set Rollers endured the Sparks second-half rally to pull off a six-point win.

Luizi Reyes made six of Rollers' last 14 points to foil the Sparks' repeated comebacks. Vince Teregeyo, Fred Litulimar, and Zack Tudela also hit timely baskets to save Rollers.

Only three teams are entered in Divi-

See 3 TEAMS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Lil' Saints player takes an off-balanced shot against two Sonics defenders during their Division II game in the UBA youth caging Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.